

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to minutes each.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUDGE JAMES M. MUNLEY AND JUDGE A. RICHARD CAPUTO

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor Judge James M. Munley and Judge A. Richard Caputo, who collectively served the Middle District of Pennsylvania as Federal district judges for over 40 years.

Judge Munley was a native of Archibald, PA. After graduating from the University of Scranton in 1958, he joined the U.S. Army and served until 1960. After his military service, Judge Munley enrolled at the Temple University School of Law and graduated in 1963. He clerked for the Honorable Michael J. Eagen on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania before practicing law in Scranton from 1964 to 1978. From 1978 to 1998, Judge Munley served with distinction as a judge on the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas. In 1998, Judge Munley was nominated to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania by President Bill Clinton. He was confirmed by the Senate and went on to serve the Middle District honorably for over two decades.

As a Federal judge, Judge Munley continued his family's tremendous legacy of public service and dedication to Pennsylvania. Both of his parents, Robert W. Munley and Marion L. Munley, and his grandfather, William J. Munley, served in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Judge Munley has been remembered by members of the Pennsylvania legal community as a skilled, good-natured, and fair jurist who approached life with a sense of optimism that "was contagious in the best sense of the word." In his courtroom and in his life, he was known to treat everyone with the same dignity, respect, and kindness. U.S. District Judge Malachy E. Mannion remembered Judge Munley by noting: "What defined him most was just his sense of humanity. He was a great judge, but he was a greater human being."

Judge Caputo was born in Port Chester, NY, and raised in Rye, NY. He graduated from Brown University in 1960. After Brown, Judge Caputo enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania Law School and graduated in 1963. He went on to join the U.S. Air Force as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps and served until

on the immediate crisis—business interruptions and the health crisis, but what we need to be looking at is when we get through this crisis—and we will, more resilient and stronger than ever.

As I mentioned in my remarks the other day, some Washington Post reporters a couple of days ago questioned the mettle and resiliency of Americans. Maybe we are not as tough and strong as we used to be to get through these crises. They just need to go to Alaska and recognize how wrong they are in that or see some of the marines that I had the privilege of serving with for the last 26 years. They would recognize quickly that they are wrong. Of course, we have the mettle and tenacity to do this.

We need to be working on phase 4. Phase 4 is going to be the policies that we implement here in the Congress to turbocharge this economy, so when we are out of this crisis, we can come back fully, more strongly in a way that our economy was just 2 months ago.

There is a lot of work that I think we could be doing, and that we are likely going to have to be doing. A number of us are going to begin working on that phase 4 approach to this pandemic to turbocharge this economy once we get out of it. I am glad to start working on that with my colleagues here in the Senate.

So, as I said, there is a lot of work to do, but the Senate is getting ready for a recess for almost a month. That is what we are getting ready to do. The country is facing one of the biggest crises in our history, and the Senate is leaving town for a month. I happen to think this is a mistake. I think it sends the wrong signal to the people we serve. I think our duty station should be here, to be ready on a moment's notice to help the citizens that we have the privilege of serving, because if there is one thing about this crisis that we have already seen is that new challenges pop up every day, every minute, every hour, and, yet, we are going to go on recess for almost a month.

I don't understand this. I don't agree with it, and I certainly hope if and when our country needs us, if we see some big mistakes in this legislation, if we recognize whole groups of Americans don't get the relief they need and the Congress needs to act, that we are not going to just say: Well, we are on recess for 30 days. Sorry. We will get to you when we come back at the end of April.

I think that would be a real mistake because, as we are seeing in this crisis, there are a lot of answers that just can't wait until the end of April. There are a lot of challenges that we need to be addressing daily, and there are going to be more, and, yet, we will not be here to address them.

So, at a minimum, I hope that when our country needs us in the next month—and it is likely going to need us—that my colleagues will be ready, on a moment's notice, wherever they are, to come back to this body and get

to work to help the people we serve. I think it is very likely that that is going to happen in the next week or two or three, and I hope my colleagues stand ready to do that and not use the excuse that we will see at the end of April to address your problems, America. That is not what we need to be doing in the midst of this very, very serious unprecedented crisis where our citizens need our help.

We had a good start tonight—a very good start—but there is going to be a lot more, and I hope this body is ready to act quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 570 and 631.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Charles Williams, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and William Jordan Gillis, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

ORDERS FOR APRIL 20, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on April 20, the Senate proceed to executive session and the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 556. I further ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the nomination; and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

1967. After his military service, Judge Caputo worked as a public defender in Luzerne County for 1 year before joining the law firm of Shea & Shea. In 1973, the firm was renamed Shea, Shea & Caputo, and after nearly 30 years in private practice, Judge Caputo was nominated to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania by President Bill Clinton in 1997. After being confirmed by the Senate, he honorably served on the Federal bench in the Middle District for over two decades.

Judge Caputo was known as a strong and fair jurist who treated everyone with deep respect in his courtroom. He strongly believed in balancing individual rights with the needs of a well-ordered society, and some in the Pennsylvania legal community have remembered him as a judge who was not afraid to depart from Federal sentencing guidelines when he found them to be too harsh. He was deeply committed to the judiciary, as evidenced by the fact that he continued to hear cases up until just a few months prior to his death. He believed that the judiciary was the heart of our democracy. Chief U.S. District Judge Christopher Conner remembered Judge Caputo as a “judge’s judge”—a strong, direct and erudite jurist, who made “extraordinary contributions to the Wilkes-Barre vicinage, to our entire court, and to our country.”

At a time when our Nation faces unprecedented challenges in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge Munley and Judge Caputo are important reminders of the intellect, compassion, and fairness that have guided our Nation since its founding. They will be missed tremendously, but their legacy will continue to inspire countless Pennsylvanians and individuals throughout our country.●

TRIBUTE TO INEZ MITTLEIDER

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to honor a very special North Dakota woman who is turning 100 years old on Friday. Inez Mittleider of Bismarck was born on March 27, 1920, in South Dakota and at a young age moved with her family to southwestern North Dakota. Living through the Dirty Thirties and the Great Depression, she had to leave home and live with family friends while she completed high school. She was one of very few women of her generation to earn a college degree. Inez lived in the communities of Heil and Mott and taught in one-room schoolhouses for nearly 10 years.

Inez and her husband raised four children and instilled in them the necessity of hard work and self-reliance. Today, Inez is the grandmother of seven, great-grandmother of nine, and continues to live on her own in Bismarck. Her many family members plan to gather to celebrate this centennial milestone with Inez later in the year.

Mr. President, North Dakota is home to more than 200 centenarians, and we

consider them among our most treasured residents. They have witnessed great moments in North Dakota’s history and their pioneer spirit, dignity, and hard work have brought them through many challenges and personal achievements.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I want to wish Inez a happy 100th birthday, and hope this is the start of a year filled with happiness and joy.●

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. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3579. A bill to require the release of certain individuals in the custody of the United States because of their risk of exposure during a national emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 3580. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report assessing the billing practices of the Department of Defense for care received under the TRICARE program and at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 3581. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report assessing Federal, State, and other mental health services available to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3582. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the health care tax credit to workers in certain critical industries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3583. A bill to provide that certain Executive Orders and presidential memorandum with respect to Federal employee collective bargaining shall have no force or effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3584. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an emergency temporary standard that requires certain employers to develop and implement a comprehensive infectious disease exposure control plan to protect employees in the health care sectors and other employees at elevated risk from exposure to SARS-CoV-2, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3585. A bill to place a moratorium on evictions during the coronavirus emergency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3586. A bill to reduce Federal spending and fund the acquisition of unexpired per-

sonal protective equipment (including face masks) for the strategic national stockpile by terminating taxpayer financing of Presidential election campaigns; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3587. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRAMER:

S. Res. 554. A resolution recognizing the contributions of health care professionals during the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S. 3374

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3374, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records.

S. 3559

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3559, a bill to provide emergency financial assistance to rural health care facilities and providers impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

S. 3568

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3568, a bill to require the President to use authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to require emergency production of medical equipment to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3587. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3587

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,