

Merkley	Schumer	Van Hollen
Murphy	Shaheen	Warren
Reed	Smith	Wyden
Rosen	Stabenow	
Schatz	Udall	
NOT VOTING—7		
Alexander	Murray	Whitehouse
Leahy	Sanders	
Markey	Sasse	

The nomination was confirmed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from the Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 3693 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I come to the floor to salute and thank our Nation's law enforcement officers during this year's National Police Week. It is notable that this week dedicated to the brave men and women in blue is in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am grateful to all who are working on the front lines right now, whether they are doctors and nurses or teachers and grocery store clerks. We are grateful to all of them, including a lot of jobs that I haven't even mentioned.

But this week, we have the unique opportunity just to settle on one group of people and thank them in a special way during National Police Week, and that is our police officers. Now, more than ever, we appreciate their service and dedication. Being a police officer isn't just a job. I am in public service, but I haven't been a police officer. I think it is fair to assume that they put their lives on the line more than most of us who are Members of the Senate.

It is not just a job. It is a calling. Each officer has answered that call and is dutifully serving during these very trying times that we call this virus pandemic. For that, I am—and, I am sure, everybody is—forever grateful.

I am particularly thankful for the men and women in blue who serve my fellow Iowans. I would also like to recognize the officers who serve in Washington, DC, the Capitol Police, meaning those who serve here on the Hill. They work to ensure our safety and protection, not only from criminals but also from a virus that has drastically changed the way we work in the Senate to serve our constituents, the American people, and, for me, the people of Iowa. Thank you to the policemen on Capitol Hill here for your selflessness and dedication.

COVID-19 knows no boundaries and has, unfortunately, affected hundreds of police officers. As of May 11, 101 officers have died in the line of duty from the virus. We must continue to honor members of the law enforcement community who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The circumstances of loss are a little different now but no less heroic or devastating.

As a Senator, my actions often speak louder than my words. So I am pleased to show the members of the law enforcement community how much I support and appreciate you through legislation. Every year, during Police Week, the Senate advances various bills focusing on the needs of the police community. This year is no different. To that end, I recently introduced a bipartisan bill with the title of Safeguarding America's First Responders Act. This bill addresses the unfortunate reality of officers' exposure to COVID-19.

To ensure benefits through the Public Safety Officer Benefits Program, my bill creates a presumption that if a first responder is diagnosed with COVID-19 within 45 days of their last day on duty, the Justice Department will treat it as a line-of-duty incident.

Loss of a family member in the line of duty isn't only emotionally devastating, but it also means lost wages in tough times. This bill recognizes the challenges posed by the pandemic and better ensures that officers' families will get the financial help as promised to other police officers who are killed in other ways in the line of duty. This bill enjoys wide support from multiple law enforcement groups and a group of bipartisan cosponsors here in the Senate.

The Senate is considering two other police bills that I support. Police officers have demanding jobs and experience events that often impact their mental health. The next bill is named the Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support Counseling Act, or we call it COPS Counseling Act, for short. This bill builds off the recommendations provided by the Justice Department in their recent report on law enforcement mental health and wellness issues.

Specifically, the bill provides confidentiality to Federal law enforcement officers by restricting individuals who participate in peer support counseling sessions from disclosing communications arising out of these sessions. With that privacy, we encourage more people to get the help they might need.

Peer support programs serve as a valuable role in providing mental health care to law enforcement and first responders. But as I have indicated, confidentiality concerns have left these programs and these professionals underutilized. This bill also encourages best practices for officers and for first responders on peer support programs across the country.

I want to thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO for leading this bill and teaming up with me on this important issue.

Lastly, I am proud to cosponsor Senator HAWLEY's bill, with a title of Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act. This bill seeks to address mental illness and increasing suicide numbers among law enforcement by requiring the FBI to open a voluntary data collection program to track suicides and attempted suicides within local, Tribal, State, and Federal law enforcement.

By providing accurate and detailed information on these issues of suicide, more effective prevention programs can be implemented.

I urge my colleagues to support all three of these bills. Passing them into law is one way of saying a big thank-you to the brave men and women who serve us so selflessly in law enforcement. We owe them a debt of gratitude, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

MR. GRASSLEY. Madam 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 10 minutes.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

MR. MERKLEY. Madam President, I wish to state for the record that, though the difficulties of traveling across the country in the midst of the current coronavirus pandemic made it impossible for me to present in the Capitol to vote on the nomination Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, I would have voted 'nay' had I been present.

Few things create a stronger foundation for a thriving, successful families than affordable housing. Study after study has shown that children who grow up in a stable home do better in school and are more successful over the course of their lives. Stable affordable housing builds strong neighborhoods and communities because the members of that community are invested in its success. For generations of Americans, homeownership has been a driving force behind the building of a strong middle class, helping families build wealth through the equity generated through homeownership.

As the son of a union mechanic, I experienced this throughout my own life. My father's wages were enough to afford a modest ranch home in a blue collar Oregon community. And because of that house and that community, I was given all kinds of opportunities. I was allowed to explore my interests, whether it was taking machines apart and putting them back together again in my dad's garage or exploring the great outdoors as a Boy Scout. I was able to receive a good public education and go on to be the first in my family to graduate from college.

But far too many Americans don't have those same opportunities today. That is because the goal of affordable housing, whether buying a house or renting a decent apartment, is out of reach for too many working and middle-class families and falling further

out of reach with every day that passes. Prior to this pandemic, we saw rents and home prices rising twice as fast as worker's incomes. Today, the cost of a typical single-family home is four times greater than the median household income.

We need a Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development who will make it a priority to reverse the trajectory that we have been on and to actually make housing more affordable in America. This position is responsible for management of all day-to-day operations within HUD, including roughly 7,700 employees. They oversee a budget of approximately \$50 billion that funds a number of programs meant to provide quality, affordable housing for lower income Americans, provides rental assistance for low-income families, and distributes grants to states and communities for various housing-related purposes and also enforces the Fair Housing Act.

Brian Montgomery is not the person for the job.

In his current role as the FHA Commissioner, Mr. Montgomery has supported policies from the Trump administration that would increase the cost of FHA loans and include risk-based pricing, continuing to make homeownership even less affordable for those who can least afford it. He was also part of the senior leadership team that published a rule that would help undermine enforcement of the Fair Housing Act through the Disparate Impact Study. The disparate impact standard is a longstanding tool used to root out policies and practices that may not be openly discriminatory on their face, but disproportionately harm a protected class under the Fair Housing Act. The proposed rule that Mr. Montgomery helped create—and which is vigorously opposed by a coalition of fair housing, civil rights, and consumer groups—rigs the system to make it nearly impossible for a victim of discrimination to win a disparate impact claim.

A person who has used his current position to make it harder for low- and middle-income Americans to afford to buy a home should not serve in a top-tier position as the equivalent of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's chief financial officer. We need individuals in these positions fighting to get families into homes, not pushing that dream further and further out of reach. Therefore, I oppose Mr. Montgomery's nomination to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and would have voted nay, had I been able to be present.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL BRAD COOPER

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Rear Admiral Brad Cooper of the U.S. Navy on his exemplary service to our Nation as the Department of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs

from July 2019 to May 2020. During this time, he led with precision and class.

Eleven months—a short period, yet the presence of the Navy here in the Capitol and the results we have seen since last July would indicate a labor of a much longer period. In that time, he has served under various leaders, yet in spite of that, the Department of the Navy has never been more strongly integrated with Congress than it is today. Through dedication and impactful communication, Brad has deftly navigated his team, our staffs, and our mutual partnership to new heights.

Brad has had the challenge of being the Navy's lead advocate on Capitol Hill and has had the privilege of communicating with all Members of Congress, which inherently is no small feat. The hidden mission therein is the tireless jobs of educating our staffs, precisely executing congressional delegations on all continents, supporting hearings, and negotiating the NDAA. He has handled our thousands of constituent inquiries and properly represented the Navy while taking into account military, political, and budgetary priorities.

Brad is the reason senior Navy leaders are always well prepared to stand before us during all hearings, calls, and numerous briefings. His clear, concise, and consistent communication to the Hill during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensured the Navy's efforts for the safety of sailors and their families and the execution of all missions to support the national defense strategy and safety and security of our Nation was well understood. Because of Brad's professionalism and visible commitment to the Navy and our country, he certainly established lasting relationships with all of the Members of Congress.

On behalf of my colleagues and the entire U.S. Congress, I want to personally thank Rear Admiral Brad Cooper for his more than three decades of dedicated service to the Navy and our Nation. He will be certainly missed. I also want to thank his wife, Susan, and children Bradford and Katie for their deep sacrifices and tremendous support. I wish them all the best in his next assignment in Norfolk, VA, and I sincerely look forward to working with him again in the future. Fair winds and following seas to you.

TRIBUTE TO LOLETA MARIE "LETA" RECORD TANNER

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I would like to say a few words to send best wishes to a good friend of mine on her next adventure, LoLeta Marie "Leta" Record Tanner. I recently learned that Leta will be moving to Texas from our great State of Wyoming to live with her son. While I am overjoyed that she can be with her family, I am deeply saddened that Wyoming will no longer be the physical home to such a dedicated, strong, and loving person.

Leta was born in Gillette, WY, in 1930. She graduated from Campbell

County High School and then traveled to Denver, where she graduated from a small community college. A dedicated public servant and Wyomingite through and through, Leta served for more than 15 years in the Campbell County Assessor's office and district court and 12 years as a member of the Gillette City Council. She also worked for former Wyoming Senator Al Simpson for 10 years, both in his northeast State office and in Washington, DC.

While her political career alone is impressive, Leta was always involved and giving her time to Wyoming. Leta is a dedicated member of the ranching community and the community at large as a member of Campbell County Cattle Women, Campbell County Wool Growers Auxiliary, and a member of Women in Business, just to name a few. She loved nothing more than working on the ranch with her family, and has worked tirelessly to support the next generation in agriculture.

In 2002, Leta was the Campbell County Woman of distinction. She has done many wonderful things for the Gillette community and the State of Wyoming. She has been a generous supporter of family-oriented performance at the Cam-Plex Heritage Center in Gillette since 1996. In 2013, her donation to Gillette College in support of their Agriculture Education Center and Rodeo complex made it a reality. This state of the art facility features an indoor rodeo practice area, classroom, lab, and 20-stall loafing sheds. It is quite possible that, without Leta's support, this world-class facility and many other projects would not have come to fruition. The dorms at Gillette College will forever bear the name Tanner Village. Her willingness to help the community grow and thrive will never be forgotten.

I am reminded of a few words my mother taught me: "Do what's right. Do what's best. Treat others as you'd wish to be treated." Leta certainly embodied these principles and will continue to do so. Although she will be leaving our great State, Leta's legacy will live on and continue to be an example of just what is possible for Wyomingites of all ages.

Leta, thank you for your years of tireless service to Wyoming. Diana joins me in sending our best wishes to you and your family. Stay in touch. Wyoming will always be your home. Thank you and God bless.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN NYBERG

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I want to honor a remarkable woman who has retired after three decades at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In her 30 years at NASA, Karen Nyberg spent 20 of them as an astronaut, including 180 days in space on two spaceflights.

Along with other Americans, I enjoyed following her space shuttle mission in 2008 and the International Space Station's 6-month expedition in