

(2) as journalists around the world are being censored and imprisoned for their reporting on the virus;

Whereas in China, Chen Qiushi was disappeared after reporting on the Government of the People's Republic of China's COVID-19 response in February 2020, Xu Zhiyong was reportedly detained in February 2020 during a COVID-19 prevention check after criticizing Chinese authorities, and reporters from The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Voice of America, and Time were expelled in March 2020;

Whereas authorities in numerous countries, including Russia, Iran, Cuba, Burma (Myanmar), and Venezuela have—

- (1) restricted journalist movement;
- (2) hindered access to information;
- (3) removed content; and
- (4) threatened, harassed, attacked, and arrested journalists for their reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, freedom of the press remained under considerable pressure throughout the world;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders found that, as of April 20, 2020, at least 229 journalists, 116 citizen journalists, and 14 media assistants were imprisoned worldwide;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 25 journalists were killed around the world for their work in 2019;

Whereas Freedom House's publication "Freedom in the World 2020" noted that global freedom of expression has declined every year for the past 14 years;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the world's most censored countries include Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Belarus, and Cuba;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has waged a campaign of judicial harassment against a variety of independent press outlets, including the news website *Rappler* and its editor, Maria Ressa, who has been arrested twice;

Whereas in Russia, Crimean Tatar freelance journalist Nariman Memedeminov was sentenced to 30 months in prison for reporting on human rights violations by Russian authorities in Crimea;

Whereas in Cuba, the Committee to Protect Journalists and Amnesty International have written to the Cuban authorities to request the immediate release of journalist Roberto Quiñones, who has been imprisoned since September 2019;

Whereas in Venezuela, freelance journalist Darvinson Rojas has been detained since March 21, 2020, for reporting on presumed COVID-19 cases that were unacknowledged by the Government of Venezuela;

Whereas in Mexico, *Quinto Poder de Veracruz* founder María Elena Ferral, *El Graffico* reporter Jorge Celestino Ruiz Vázquez, and journalists Nevith Condes Jaramilla, Rogelio Barragán Pérez, and Norma Sarabia were all murdered between June 2019 and March 2020;

Whereas in Niger, independent journalist Kaka Touda Mamane Goni was arrested on March 5, 2020, and faces up to 3 years in prison for publishing news reports on social media about potential COVID-19 cases;

Whereas in Burundi, Iwacu journalists Christine Kamikazi, Agnès Ndirubusa, Egide Harerimana, and Tèrence Mpozenzi were convicted on charges of attempting to undermine state security and sentenced to 2½ years in prison;

Whereas in Tanzania, journalist Azory Gwanda has been missing since November 2017;

Whereas Turkey remains 1 of the top jailers of independent journalists around the world,

and the Government of Turkey closed down more than 100 news outlets during 2019;

Whereas in Egypt, prominent blogger and activist Alaa Abdelfattah was rearrested in September 2019, human rights activist and journalist Esraa Abdel Fattah was rearrested in October 2019, and *Guardian* reporter Ruth Michaelson's press credentials were withdrawn for questioning official COVID-19 figures on March 16, 2020;

Whereas American journalist Austin Tice has been detained in Syria since August 14, 2012;

Whereas female journalists and writers in Saudi Arabia face harsh personal consequences for their work, and Zana Al-Shari of the daily *Al-Riyadh*, Maha al-Rafidi al-Qahtani of the daily *Al-Watan*, and recipients of the 2019 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award Nouf Abdulaziz, Loujain Al-Hathloul, and Eman Al-Nafjan remain missing, imprisoned, or on trial due to their writing and outspoken women's rights advocacy;

Whereas the Senate has concluded that Washington Post journalist and United States resident Jamal Khashoggi was murdered by a team of Saudi operatives at the behest of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Radio, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and the Middle East Broadcast Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas freedom of the press is a key element of public transparency, civil society participation, socioeconomic development, and democratic governance: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies, democratic governance, and contributes to an informed civil society, and government accountability;

(B) helps expose corruption, and enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(C) disseminates information essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) condemns threats to freedom of the press and free expression around the world; and

(3) in remembrance of journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their vital work—

(A) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/163 (2013) by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(B) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(C) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all imprisoned journalists;

(D) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(E) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State—

(i) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to freedom of the press, on the basis of the protections afforded the American people

under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(ii) to improve the rapid identification, publication, and response by the United States Government to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(iii) to urge foreign governments to protect the free flow of information and to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(iv) to promote the respect and protection of freedom of the press around the world.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Justin R. Walker, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for District of Columbia Circuit.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

## UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res 556.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 556) designating May 1, 2020, as the "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and honoring the members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 556) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 4, 2020, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 597 through S. Res. 599.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolutions, en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3833 AND H.R. 6800

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3833) to extend the loan forgiveness period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6800) making emergency supplemental emergency appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020, THROUGH MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 22, 9 a.m.; Tuesday, May 26, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, May 28, 11 a.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 28, it next convene at 3 p.m. Monday, June 1, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, upon the closing of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Tipton nomination; further, that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of the Badalamenti nomination under the previous order; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, Monday, June 1, count as the intervening day with respect to cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate.

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

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHARON LONG

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday, one of my favorite times of the week, because it is the time I get to come to the Senate floor and recognize an extraordinary Alaskan whom we refer to as the Alaskan of the Week.

Now, Memorial Day is fast approaching. It is certainly one of the most sacred days in our Nation throughout the year. For this week's Alaskan of the Week, Sharon Long, it is a day that is a particularly profound day.

Sharon Long is a Gold Star mother who lives in Anchorage, and she remembers her son, Grant Fraser, every day of the year. For her and her family and for so many people who knew Grant and who served with Grant, Memorial Day is a day when his memory is particularly honored.

Before I get into Sharon Long's story, as well as the remarkable story of her son Grant, let me talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska right now as we, in our country, continue to face the challenges of this pandemic.

We are doing pretty well in our State, medically, certainly. Things could, of course, change quickly. We remain vigilant as a State, but the number of people infected by the virus is very low. Businesses are starting to reopen. Life, by no means, is back to normal, and there is much that we are going to need to do to recover from this virus and pandemic, which has very, very negatively impacted so

many parts of the great State of Alaska's economy—the energy sector, tourism sector, fishery sector. We will get through this stronger and more resilient, but it is a challenging time.

As you know, Memorial Day weekend commemorates many virtues in our Nation: service, selflessness, and, of course, sacrifice. But Memorial Day also commemorates and inspires hope. I know hope can be a bit hard to come by during these challenging times, but I don't think we have to go very far to see signs of hope.

In our great Nation and in my great State, hope is in the faces of those we love. In Alaska, it is in our mountains and our glaciers and our clear waters. It is also woven into the fabric of our country and the soul of our Nation. It is at the very heart of who we are, and it has been so throughout our history, often manifesting itself in the battles that have shaped our Nation over decades and over centuries that define so much of the American character and the people who fought those battles and died defending their Nation whom we commemorate this weekend. Hope is what Sharon Long and other Gold Star mothers throughout our State and Nation who have lost a child while defending America have to offer us.

So let me tell you about Sharon's story and about her son, Marine Corps LCpl Grant Fraser, who gave his life for this Nation. From Seattle, Sharon moved to our State to live with her aunt and uncle when she was just 16 years old. She graduated from West High School in Anchorage, studied political science at Alaska Methodist University, which is now Alaska Pacific University, and embraced the great State of Alaska with everything she had.

It was a heady and exciting time in Alaska. Prudhoe Bay Oil Field on the North Slope was just discovered—the biggest oilfield in North America. This is the late 1960s, early 1970s. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, one of the biggest land claims acts in U.S. history, was being debated and then passed right here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Sharon said: Alaska was a wide open place that wanted the energy of my generation. She got to work. She worked at the Department of Natural Resources, an agency that I had the honor of being the former commissioner of. She worked for the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska, inventorying the abundant world-class natural resources we have in our State.

Then she and a girlfriend traveled the world for a year and landed at the end of her tour in DC. She was young, broke, on a friend's couch, and she came here and asked for and got a job with former Alaska U.S. Senator Mike Gravel. Some might remember Senator Gravel here in the Senate. She worked on natural resource issues for him.

Eventually, she made her way back home to Alaska and met her husband,