

Through the lens of recent tragedies—the police killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and, just this week, Rayshard Brooks—and the worldwide anti-racism protests they have sparked, this education is more important than ever. We are being called to connect the dots in our history and take action to bring about meaningful change, to save lives, and to right the wrongs of the past. We are being called, yet again, to answer in what ways are our constitutional promises still left unfulfilled for Black Americans?

Answering this question is essential to addressing police and criminal justice reform. From the establishment of deputized slave patrols in the American South, to the enforcement of segregation laws through the 1960s, to mass incarceration and disproportionate police violence in our present day, Black Americans have often faced systemic racism that the law either required or permitted. The same 13th Amendment that abolished slavery did so in all forms except incarceration, shrouding the institution in a new light and enabling the continued suppression of freedom and rights.

Today, Black Americans are still twice as likely to be killed by police as White Americans. And despite representing only 12 percent of the U.S. adult population, Black Americans make up 33 percent of the sentenced prison population. We have seen the brutal videos. We see the painful list of names of men and women killed at the hands of police brutality. We see the effects of this cyclical system on the health of our communities and families every day. We must act to stop it.

The roots of systemic racism in law enforcement were planted centuries ago and can be unraveled with targeted and conscious action. This is why I have been proud to work with my colleagues Senators BOOKER and HARRIS on crafting police reform legislation that works toward justice and systemic change, the Justice in Policing Act. This broader legislation includes two bills I have introduced for several years, the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act. The Justice in Policing Act would prohibit racial profiling, improve officer training, and hold officers accountable for the misconduct that keeps alive the culture that has reinforced centuries of oppression. I hope the Senate can pass this bill. Equal treatment of individuals under the law must not be a partisan issue.

All Americans must recognize and celebrate Juneteenth so that we may face these harsh realities about our past and present and understand that the fight for freedom is ongoing. We cannot ignore our past, for it is with us here in the present in many forms. The wounds of our Nation will not heal until we identify and name their source and commit to doing the work in Congress and in our communities to mend them. Freedom has never been free, nor

has it ever come easily. Let us celebrate liberation by doing everything we can to fight for it for generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DEL G. ATKINSON

- Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career of U.S. Air National Guard CMSgt. Del G. Atkinson, who is retiring after almost 40 years of faithful service to our country.

Chief Atkinson entered Federal Active-Duty service in the U.S. Army in August 1982. He was stationed in Nuremberg, West Germany, with the 595th Military Police Company, First Armored Division "Old Ironsides" and the 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles" with the 101st Military Police Company Fort Campbell, KY.

Upon completion of his Army service, he entered into the Air National Guard. During his lengthy career in the Guard, Chief Atkinson served a number of combat deployments, including Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Coronet Oak.

Chief Atkinson used his experience in the Army to launch a career in law enforcement, working as a member of the University of Arkansas Police Department and the Springdale, AR, Police Department.

Over the course of almost 36 years, his military service took him around the globe, and yet, whether it was in Arkansas, our Nation's Capital, or overseas, he and I always seemed to be crossing paths.

A number of those occasions were more than just fortunate circumstances, as for a time, he was part of a team responsible for providing protection for aircraft transitioning between overseas airfields with inadequate security.

He often found himself assigned to Senate, congressional, and White House missions. I was privileged to have been onboard for some of those flights. My colleagues and I relied on Del and his teammates, for our protection as we traveled to some dangerous parts of the world.

On those trips, I remember looking back on his time in local law enforcement and thinking to myself how special it was that northwest Arkansas had extra representation onboard. Del and his colleagues took great care of us, each and every time, and for that, I will always be appreciative.

Chief Atkinson was promoted eight times during the course of his military career. He earned a number of prestigious awards and medals including a Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

His pride in our Nation and his fellow servicemembers is apparent, including with his service as a member of the

Liberty Jump Team, where he performed commemorative parachute jumps honoring veterans of wars and foreign conflicts. He joined the team because he "wanted to give back to the Greatest Generation" and honor how they "overcame all obstacles and persevered to win the victory on all fronts."

I remain grateful for Del's combat service to the Nation, dedication to keeping the UA campus and the community of Springdale safe during his law enforcement days, and commitment to keep alive the memory of those who sacrificed for our Nation. I wish him years of joy and happiness in retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, and treaties, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3985. A bill to improve and reform policing practices, accountability, and transparency.

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-4856. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of DFARS Clause 'Notification of Anticipated Contract Termination or Reduction'" (RIN0750-AK56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4857. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of Annual Reporting Requirements to Congressional Defense Committees" (RIN0750-AK91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4858. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Market Research and Consideration of Value for the Determination of Price” (RIN0750-AK65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4859. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Justification and Approval Threshold for 8(a) Contracts” (RIN0750-AK93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4860. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Qualifications Requirements for Contracting Positions” (RIN0750-AK99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4861. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C)” (RIN3170-AA76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4862. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Remittance Transfers under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (Regulation E)” (RIN3170-AA96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4863. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of the designation of Jason Kearns as Chairman and Randolph J. Stayin as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4864. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2021; Notice Requirement for Non-Federal Government Plans” (RIN0938-AT98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4865. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” (RIN0938-AU31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4866. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, with respect to North Korea, received in the office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4867. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “June 2020 Report to the Congress:

Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4868. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Service Contracts” (RIN3072-AC80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4869. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interpretive Rule on Demurrage and Detention Under the Shipping Act” (RIN3072-AC76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4870. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 58th Annual Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-204. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by supporting H.R. 141 and S. 521 of the 116th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit, payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit earned in public employment not covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, the GPO can negatively affect a retired public employee receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit earned in employment not covered by Social Security who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by the retiree's spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the retired public employee, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though the retiree's spouse paid Social Security taxes throughout the marriage; and

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, nearly seven hundred thousand people were affected by the GPO in December 2018, including more than thirty-seven thousand Louisianians; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits in public employment not covered by Social Security, in addition to paying social security taxes while working in employment covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may re-

duce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, nearly two million people, or about three percent of all Social Security beneficiaries were affected by the WEP in December 2019; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and the GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and, in combination, eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the WEP and the GPO, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like teachers, school workers, and state employees; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by the WEP and the GPO is growing as nearly ten thousand baby boomers attain retirement age each day; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the WEP and the GPO may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during reemployment in the public sector may further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the global pandemic, the current financial market volatility, medical advances increasing longevity, and the escalating cost of health care further contribute to the expenses that those of social security age must bear; and

Whereas, the WEP and the GPO are established in federal law, and repeal or reduction of the WEP and the GPO can be enacted only by Congress. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by supporting H.R. 141 and S. 521 of the 116th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1069. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-234).