

choke holds and carotid holds in order to receive Federal funds. It prohibits the use of racial profiling by police officers. It creates a national police misconduct registry that would collect disciplinary or termination history of officers so potential employers would know of an officer's past misconduct. It gives subpoena authority to the Justice Department to conduct "pattern or practice" investigations. It eliminates the defense of "qualified immunity" so that police officers can be held civilly liable under the law for misconduct. And it amends Federal criminal law so officers can more effectively be charged for violating people's constitutional and legal rights.

Meaningful reform is long overdue, and rather than rushing a weak bill to the floor, the Senate Judiciary Committee should take up the Justice in Policing Act as soon as possible. This is how the Senate is supposed to work. We should not be trying to address this important issue by rushing an insufficient bill to the floor. Now is the time for leadership, courage, and real police reform.

Thank you.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the committee is closely monitoring upgrades to F-35 software and other capabilities under the continuous capability development and delivery C2D2 strategic modernization framework. The principal purpose for C2D2 is the development of Block 4 software and weapons system upgrades, which also includes other elements like Technical Refresh-3 and dual weapons capability, to ensure the F-35 maintains its operational advantage. However, the committee is concerned the planned F-35 air vehicle capability growth, associated with Block 4 weapons systems enhancements, will exceed the established thrust, power, and thermal management capabilities of the current F135 propulsion system beginning with the delivery of Lot 18 aircraft. Such a capability gap between the current F135 performance and future requirements could significantly constrain the operational capabilities of the F-35 weapons system.

The committee is aware of a recent agreement to conduct a 6-month propulsion study and operational assessment to determine the specific F135 propulsion growth requirement that would address this capability gap. The study to determine the future propulsion requirement is expected to conclude in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021. The committee strongly endorses this approach and encourages the Department of Defense to submit recommendations to Congress following completion of the study. Further, the committee strongly supports a long-term focus on propulsion improvements over fiscal years 2021–2025 necessary to support engineering and man-

ufacturing development for upgraded engine production supporting the planned delivery of Lot 18 aircraft.

Therefore, the committee directs the Department of Defense and Joint Program Office to establish an F135 Propulsion Growth Program that ensures propulsion growth requirements are aligned with and support weapons systems upgrade requirements. Finally, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to include funding in the fiscal year 2022 budget request to support the F135 Propulsion Growth Program across the Future Years Defense Plan.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted no on rollcall Vote 112, motion to invoke cloture on confirmation of Michael Pack to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted no on rollcall Vote 113, confirmation of Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for the term of three years.

I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall Vote 117, motion to invoke cloture on Gardner Amendment No. 1617.

I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted no on rollcall Vote 123, confirmation of Justin Reed Walker, of Kentucky, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted no on rollcall Vote 124, motion to invoke cloture on Cory T. Wilson, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 555TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, the "World Famous Highly Respected" 555th Fighter Squadron, commonly known as the Triple Nickel, recently completed the Department of Defense's first real-world combat Dynamic Force Employment DFE to United States Central Command. In plain English, the Triple Nickel executed an unplanned departure to the Middle East last fall to combat Iranian aggression against the United States and our allies in the region.

During its historic deployment, the squadron flew more than 7,000 hours supporting operations in the Arabian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Demonstrating the rapid, agile, and lethal characteristics of airpower, the Nickel executed defensive counter-air missions in Syria—routinely intercepting and monitoring Russian, Syrian, and Iranian aircraft operating near U.S. and partnered ground forces. It also provided close air support to troops battling the Taliban in Afghanistan, as well as ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

The Nickel returned home in December as Iran's aggression began to wane but deployed a second time only days later when tensions rapidly escalated following the U.S. strike against Qasem Soleimani. The squadron subsequently executed force protection missions in Iraq during and after Iran's missile attacks against U.S. forces. The Triple Nickel then deployed to a second expeditionary operating location. U.S. F-16s had not conducted combat missions from this location since 2003. From there, the squadron was able to immediately respond to the rocket attacks on Camp Taji, Iraq, by Iranian-backed Shia militia groups and execute retaliatory strikes.

The squadron returned to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in late April as the Air Force's first major combat unit to re-deploy during the China virus pandemic. Throughout their deployment, the men and women of the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and Maintenance Unit performed exceptionally under tense combat pressures executing a new and highly mobile deployment construct during a pandemic. The Triple Nickel represents the best America has to offer, and I congratulate them on a job well done. "Once Green!"

#### TRIBUTE TO KIM CAWLEY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President. I rise today to recognize the distinguished career and retirement of Kim Cawley after 34 years of service at the Congressional Budget Office. Kim has been Chief of the Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit for more than 20 of those years, also spent over a decade as one of CBO's energy analysts. He is one of that agency's experts on the Nuclear Waste Fund, the treatment of Federal loans and loan guarantees, and the budgetary effects of Federal insurance programs.

It is hard to overstate Kim's role in analyzing the budgetary impacts of an incredibly broad swath of legislation over the past three decades. He has been instrumental in providing objective, carefully researched estimates of thousands of pieces of legislation that the Congress has considered, debated, and enacted since the mid-1980, including bills dealing with flood insurance, compensation for victims of asbestos and oil spills, Federal property sales, and infrastructure financing, to name just a few.

Kim has worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and our staff on both sides of the aisle throughout those years. During many hours of discussion and patient explanation, he could be counted on to be forthright and fair. He embodied CBO's commitment to non-partisan analysis and helped the Congress understand the intricacies of such complex laws as the Federal Credit Reform Act, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, and the 9-11 Victims Compensation Act.

Kim has been a mentor and guide to dozens of CBO analysts. Thanks to his

guidance and training, a generation of CBO analysts think harder, dig deeper, and ask more probing questions when analyzing the estimated costs of legislation. Kim set high standards for himself and for the Natural Resources Unit, and we are confident that they will continue to provide timely and thorough analyses for the Congress thanks to what they have learned under Kim's leadership.

I, along with House Budget Committee Chairman JOHN YARMUTH, wish to thank Kim for his years of dedicated service to the Congress and extend to him our best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RICHARD BENEVILLE

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of a friend and one of Alaska's truly unique individuals, the mayor of Nome, Richard Beneville. We lost the mayor last month when he succumbed to pneumonia in the town he called home for more than 32 years. Richard's life story was colorful. He left New York City as a young man struggling with alcoholism and searching for a new life. Alaska was as far away as he could go, and he often said Alaska saved him. He spent a few years in Barrow before moving to Nome in 1988, and I think it is fair to say that the town has never been the same since. His career began on Broadway, and Richard channeled his creative energy to inspire youth and adults in Nome through the Nome Arts Council. He directed more than three dozen plays, including "The Sound of Music," "Music Man," and "Fiddler on the Roof," and inspired generations in the community to appreciate the stage.

Ever the showman, Richard was a tireless ambassador for Nome and Arctic tourism. He founded Nome Discovery Tours in 1994, and he never missed an opportunity to promote Nome and the surrounding region and its rich history. Watching him entertain a tour group with tales of Nome's early gold mining days, while he demonstrated how to pan for gold, audience captivated, was a real treasure.

For the past 4½ years, he served as mayor of Nome, and there was no better cheerleader for this remote community. Some of my colleagues may recall running into him in the halls of the Hart and Dirksen Buildings, wearing his signature "Hello Central" knit hat, a Port of Nome, vest and always sporting his I love Nome! button. Never shy, Richard would greet Senators, staff, and visitors alike, quickly asking them how their day was and what they were up to as he worked the halls and made new friends. His friendly banter and genuine interest in people was refreshing in an environment all too often filled with hustle and tension.

For those of you who have never had the fortune to visit Nome, there are only three ways to get there from Anchorage—airplane, boat, and dog sled. Nome is 2000 miles closer to the North Pole than to New York City, and in 2016 when the *Crystal Serenity* called on the Port of Nome during its maiden voyage from Seward to Manhattan, the mayor was there to greet these intrepid Arctic adventurers. I had the privilege to travel with Richard to many Arctic conferences, and it was a joy to watch as he shared his vision for Arctic tourism and a positive future for this fascinating and challenging part of the world.

The mayor was a passionate champion of the Iditarod and I last saw him on Saturday, March 7, in Anchorage at the ceremonial start of the race. He had just been released from the hospital, having persuaded his doctors and nurses that the "show must go on" to be there for the festivities.

He loved people, the arts, flowers, and above all, Nome to the end. His passing is a true loss for my State. I will miss his boundless enthusiasm and his trademark greeting to all he ran into, "Hello Central!"

##### RECOGNIZING MERCEDES SCIENTIFIC

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business that provides critical medical supplies to hospitals and laboratories nationwide. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Mercedes Scientific of Lakewood Ranch, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1991, Noelle Haft and Hank Traynor founded Mercedes Scientific in New Hyde Park, NY. The two were veterans of the medical supply industry, combining their scientific expertise and knowledge of laboratory distribution to start their own small business. At the time, it was known as Mercedes Medical. Drawn by the weather and welcoming business regulations, Mercedes Medical relocated to Florida in 1993. When Hank retired, Noelle and her husband, Rob, continued running the company along with their daughter, Alex Miller.

Over the next few decades, Mercedes Medical remained a family-owned company as it grew into a notable medical supplier. The company moved into their Lakewood Ranch facility in 2018 and expanded to provide laboratory equipment and personal protective equipment, PPE. They rebranded as Mercedes Scientific in 2019 due to their growing focus on serving the research, laboratory, and scientific communities.

Mercedes Scientific is active in the community. They donate medical sup-

plies to local organizations and businesses, as well as educational institutions nationwide. The company supports international nonprofit missions, such as helping medical facilities recover from natural disasters. Closer to home, Mercedes Scientific is a team build partner with Habitat for Humanity in Sarasota, FL. They also work with the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance to promote local economic development.

Like many small businesses in Florida, Mercedes Scientific experienced supply chain disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a medical supply company, they play a critical role in securing laboratory supplies, PPE, and COVID-19 test kits. Mercedes Scientific works tirelessly with laboratories and hospitals in Florida and throughout the Nation to ensure they receive the resources needed to combat the pandemic.

When the U.S. Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, PPP, Mercedes Scientific applied for funding. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to a PPP loan, Mercedes Scientific was able to keep their 67 employees paid and remain focused on its mission sourcing medical supplies.

Mercedes Scientific is a notable example of the key role small businesses play in America's medical supply chains. I commend their continued work to provide essential hospital and laboratory supplies as the United States confronts the coronavirus pandemic. Congratulations to Noelle, Rob, Alex, and the whole team. I look forward to your continued success, growth, and success in the Lakewood Ranch area.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

#### 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-4871. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the