

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Although we certainly have not agreed on many policy issues and priorities over the years, I have greatly appreciated working alongside Senator ENZI to fund and define many other legislative priorities to meet the needs of the American people.

I will miss my fellow Italian-Irish friend. We were a proud caucus of the only two Irish-Italian American Senators. Upon his retirement from the Senate, I would like to thank Senator ENZI for his service, and Marcelle and I wish MIKE and his wife Diana all the best.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there are some for whom public service simply isn't a choice; it runs through their veins as a calling and a force that draws them to answer an undeniable call. TOM UDALL is one of those people, and when the curtain closes on this 116th Congress and on TOM's service in the Senate, it will bookend a career in Congress in which the Udalls, a family steeped in public service, can take great pride. The UDALL legacy will live on in its benefits for generations of Americans to come.

First as a Representative to the U.S. House and later as a U.S. Senator, TOM has consistently fought for the interests of New Mexico and his State's people. He has been instrumental in the passage of legislation that has not only brought important resources to the people of New Mexico, but has protected and preserved our environment. For his constituents at home, this has meant more conservation of public lands and significant expansions of access to education, healthcare, and land tenure rights for Native Americans in New Mexico and across the United States.

TOM fought hard to protect the environment and invest in a more sustainable future. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and as the ranking member of the Interior and Environment Subcommittee, he advocated strongly for continued financial assistance for Federal, State, and local programs that focus on environmental conservation and work to address climate change and its effects. Critically, he fought against draconian budget cuts to such entities as the Environmental Protection Agency and fought to protect our clean air and clean drinking water laws. Working with TOM on the Appropriations Committee, it has been easy to see his clear dedication to his constituents, and his devoted service to country.

I was saddened when TOM announced his retirement, but I believe TOM will never close the door on his public service. Marcelle and I wish TOM and his wife Jill, and the rest of their family, all the best in the coming years. It was a privilege to be on the floor of the Senate when TOM gave his farewell ad-

dress. Such honesty, patriotism, wisdom of how we can and must restore the workings of the Senate—all current Senators and future Senators should listen.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO ACT

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and the senior Senator from Texas with regard to a commitment made between all of us here.

This commitment is related to the [consideration] of H.R. 2420, National Museum of the American Latino Act, previously reported out of the Rules Committee on December 3, and championed by Senator CORNYN.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and having spearheaded the effort to design and build the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial, I appreciate the goal of this legislation, but also the challenges getting the effort across the goal line.

H.R. 2420 has an honorable cause: to build a museum that focuses on the legacy of the Latino people, one that is embedded in the history of the United States. The purpose of the National Museum of the American Latino is to serve as the premier location for people to learn about Latino contributions to life, art, history, and culture in the United States.

I support such an effort. However, I raise one issue with the legislation, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's historic main headquarters building is specified in the bill as a potential location for the museum.

USDA has been headquartered at the location on the National Mall since 1868. The main building was renamed in 1995 in honor of one of the longest serving members of Congress, Jaime L. Whitten of Mississippi. I had the pleasure to serve with Chairman Whitten in the House.

USDA provides leadership on issues related to food, agriculture, rural development, and nutrition. The work of the Department benefits residents in our rural communities and supports agriculture production that feeds hundreds of millions of Americans and others throughout the world.

The legacy of the Latino people is intertwined with the communities that USDA serves in rural and urban America.

I appreciate the efforts of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino. Having recently completed the decades-long endeavor to establish Ike's memorial, I am sympathetic to the desire to establish a tribute in our Nation's Capitol. It is not an easy process, and there will undoubtedly be challenges along the way.

Attempting to relocate the historic headquarters of one of the largest Federal agencies which serves all Americans is a hurdle that can be avoided.

So I encourage the board of trustees of the National Museum of the American Latino and the board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution, who are responsible for choosing the site location of the museum, to work through their processes as they finalize a location. And as they do so, I encourage them to appreciate USDA's mission and constituency when they make hard decisions and consider the expense of relocating USDA.

I am pleased that we have come to a compact with regard to the location for this museum, that we agree here to encourage the board of trustees and the board regents to break ground on a fresh location, rather than a historic site of a Department that has served and will continue to serve our Nation's farmers, ranchers, growers, and other rural stakeholders.

I now yield to my friend, Mr. BLUNT, the senior Senator from Missouri and chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, to offer his perspective.

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Chairman ROBERTS. I was pleased the Rules Committee favorably approved H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act, earlier this month.

There is no doubt the stories of the American Latino are important and must be told more fully than they have been in the past. I want to commend Senators CORNYN and MENENDEZ on their diligent efforts to get here. I know it has been a long road.

In order to keep this legislation moving forward, I agree with Chairman ROBERTS on the need to state for the record the importance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's historic main headquarters.

While that building is listed in the bill as a potential location for the museum, the Senate recognizes the extreme imposition this would place on the Department and the people it serves.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture—and that subcommittee's former ranking member—I couldn't agree more with Chairman ROBERTS that the work of the USDA is crucially important to Missouri, to Kansas, to the Nation, and the international community as well. Clearly, that work would be disrupted if the USDA and its staff were forced to relocate.

I join Chairman ROBERTS in encouraging the Smithsonian's board of regents to recognize the role and expanse of the USDA when selecting a location for the museum and to look for a more appropriate site for the museum.

I now yield to the Senior Senator from Texas, an early champion of this legislation, for his remarks.

Mr. CORNYN. Thank you to the senior Senator from Kansas for his leadership over the years and his attention to this bill. I also thank the chairman for holding a hearing and passing this important bill out of his committee.

I know some of our colleagues have concerns about the museum location,

and I can assure them, Congress will have a voice in the site of the museum. Before construction can begin, congressional committees will be consulted on site selection, as detailed in the bill.

The Smithsonian board of regents, which will select the site, is chaired by Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts and comprises multiple members of Congress, including three sitting Senators, as well as the Vice President.

Congress will also need to appropriate funds, a de facto ratification or rejection of the site selected by the Smithsonian board of regents.

I intend there will be open lines of communication between members of Congress and the Smithsonian board of regents as they undertake this significant project.

It has been estimated if we pass this bill today, the doors to a new museum would not open for at least a decade and more likely not until 2034—so I am eager to get the process moving.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I appreciate the work of my colleagues for raising the issue of the site of National Museum of the American Latino and for helping to find agreement.

I thank Chairman BLUNT and Senator CORNYN for their commitment. I also thank many of our colleagues who helped us reach this solution today.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the conference report for the annual defense policy bill, known as the National Defense Authorization Act or NDAA. Like all conference reports, this is a product of negotiations between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Producing a conference report takes dedicated negotiators who are willing to make tough compromises. I commend them for their work, and I particularly want to thank my friend, Senator JACK REED, who has shown strong leadership as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I hope these negotiations will be a good omen for how Congress will work under the incoming Biden administration.

But supporting the process that produced this conference report is very different from supporting the report on its merits.

I have voted against the Senate version of this defense bill twice now, once during the rollcall vote in July and then during a voice vote last month. House negotiators have managed to improve the bill since then, but not so significantly that I am able to support it now.

I want to be clear that I support plenty of provisions in this NDAA. I even wrote or negotiated some of the language to improve the bill.

The bill includes anti-money laundering provisions, which I strongly support. I have twice introduced bipar-

tisan legislation to end the abuse of anonymous shell companies, and I am happy to see the NDAA expand upon my efforts.

The conference report will also set in motion a 3-year process to remove Confederate names from military assets. I would have preferred a shorter timeline, but I am glad that Congress will be taking this overdue step to ensure that military bases do not honor traitors who fought to defend the horrific institution of slavery.

And the conference report also includes my amendments to push the Pentagon toward encrypting its computers and to require the Army to provide a plan to finish cleaning up the former Umatilla Army Depot within 3 years.

But I cannot in good conscience authorize \$740 billion in military spending—including roughly \$70 billion to continue the forever wars—while Senate Republicans are offering mere crumbs to help folks stay safe from a raging pandemic and help small businesses stay afloat during this unprecedented time.

I said previously that I could not vote for a defense bill with Federal agents actively occupying Portland and treating peaceful protestors like foreign enemies. Donald Trump may have removed much of his occupying force but this bill does nothing to prevent him or any future president from ordering similar abuses.

And I have serious concerns about a provision that will permit the Secretary of the Treasury or the Attorney General to issue subpoenas, with indefinite gag orders, to foreign banks that maintain a correspondent account in the United States.

There may be some limited instances where it may be appropriate to restrict bank employees from notifying account holders about a Federal subpoena to obtain their records, but as a general rule, I oppose indefinite gag orders. I worry this section grants dangerous powers to the executive branch to regulate speech, raising very serious First Amendment and due process concerns. That is why gag orders should not be included automatically with every subpoena and should have an expiration date, so that any restrictions on speech apply no longer than necessary.

I regret that these and other flaws mean that I must continue to oppose this NDAA at this time. I yield the floor with the hope that Republicans will be as willing to provide real help for everyday Americans suffering—particularly during this tough holiday season—as they are to greenlight ever-higher levels of military spending.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the United Nations World Food Programme, which is receiving the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize today.

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those “who shall have done the most, or the best work, for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”

The World Food Programme, WFP, the largest humanitarian organization focused on eliminating global hunger and increasing food security, truly embodies those ideals.

The organization was awarded the honor for “its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas, and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.”

Those efforts, when put into numbers, show just what an enormous impact WFP has as a last line of defense between hungry people and starvation. Each year, the organization provides more than 15 billion meals to 100 million people in more than 80 countries. It was the world’s largest nongovernmental provider of school meals, reaching 18 million children in 59 countries in last year.

The logistical challenges of accomplishing this goal may seem overwhelming to most but not to the WFP. The organization has it down to a science. WFP’s 18,000 staff has over 5,000 trucks, 120 aircraft, and 20 ships on the move daily, bringing food to those who need it most.

The WFP’s executive director, David Beasley, is a good friend of mine. His commitment to serving a higher calling is inspirational. I couldn’t be more pleased that the spotlight is pointed on the work of the WFP under David’s dedicated leadership.

David will be the first to tell you that despite this honor, the WFP’s work is far from complete. After the announcement, he said, “The good news is we’re feeding 80 million people on any given day in 80 countries. The bad news is it’s getting worse out there—the famine, the droughts, the conflicts.”

While that assessment is spot-on, I would add one more factor to the list, the coronavirus pandemic. According to the WFP, the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to double the number of people facing acute hunger to 270 million people. It may also lead to emergence of famine in multiple countries.

The pandemic makes the lifesaving work of the WFP all that much more vital. In a world where 60 percent of people suffering from chronic hunger live in countries affected by violence, additional nutritional access constraints only serve to make food a more powerful weapon of war. The WFP’s efforts to overcome that challenge and bring food to the hungry in conflict zones makes the organization well-deserved of the honor of a Nobel Peace Prize.