

passed. That didn't come just from me; that came from the American Enterprise Institute, which has all the credibility in the world. They talk about the serious things that are going on, and they actually said this bill has the most substantial and consequential China-related provisions since—in, probably, history.

That is significant because all of us remember—I know that Senator REED and I have both spent time in the South China Sea, the seven islands that they are doing right now. China—it is illegal, but they have taken over—no, they have created seven islands in the South China Sea. When you go down there, it looks as if, on those islands, they are preparing for World War III. A lot of our allies in that area are very much concerned because they are making a lot more noise than we are, and they are demonstrating very clearly some of the things that they do that we haven't done. Hypersonics is an example. That is a state-of-the-art thing that we do in modernizing our military equipment and abilities. It has been very successful, but they are still ahead of us, so we are in catchup mode.

I would say this: When you go and you look and you see the buildups that they have—I can remember—it wasn't long ago that every time China got involved in any kind of an effort, they did it from their own city limits there. Now they are all over Djibouti, Tanzania, and all around the world.

We made this bill to establish the Pacific Deterrence Initiative. That is \$2.2 billion for foreign posture to put ourselves in the position where we are going to pass, with this bill—we will pass China, and then we will be shifting the supply chains away from China—semiconductors and printed circuit boards, the pharmaceuticals—stimulating the U.S. economy, protecting weapons systems and our troops, and bringing China's malign national security activities into light to make sure everybody knows what they are doing there.

We have a new report in this bill on the true China defense security spending, new assessments of China's industrial base, new list of Chinese companies operating in the United States and making it more difficult for them to do that. It is all in this bill. There is a new report on the fishing fleets they have out there. It extends the successful China Military Power Report, supports Taiwan and a new plan against—that is better than anything we have ever done before.

Yesterday, I put this into the record—all the things that we are doing just concentrating on the threat that is posed to the United States from the country of China. It is all in this bill. So this is something we have taken great pride in because we recognize the threat that is posed to our country from the Chinese.

This is a good bill. It is one that deserves overwhelming support. I will say

one more time that a lot of work went into this from both sides of the aisle. We were in agreement on it with huge margins of support in both Chambers of the House and the Senate. We will have a chance to move procedurally toward that and make that a reality before the end of the week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 5 Leg.]

Alexander	Grassley	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Roberts
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Boozman	Inhofe	Rounds
Braun	Johnson	Sasse
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	Kennedy	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lee	Shaheen
Cornyn	Manchin	Shelby
Duckworth	Markey	Sullivan
Durbin	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Paul	Young
Fischer	Peters	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). A quorum is present. The majority leader.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—VETO—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the veto message on H.R. 6395, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Leg.]

YEAS—80

Alexander	Feinstein	Reed
Baldwin	Fischer	Risch
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Roberts
Bennet	Grassley	Romney
Blumenthal	Harris	Rosen
Blunt	Hassan	Rounds
Booker	Heinrich	Sasse
Boozman	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Hoeven	Schumer
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shaheen
Cardin	Kaine	Shelby
Carper	Kelly	Sinema
Casey	King	Smith
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tillis
Cramer	Menendez	Toomey
Crapo	Moran	Udall
Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wicker
Enzi	Peters	Young
Ernst	Portman	

NAYS—12

Braun	Lee	Sanders
Cruz	Markey	Van Hollen
Hawley	Merkley	Warren
Kennedy	Paul	Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Blackburn	Graham	Perdue
Cotton	Jones	Rubio
Gardner	Loeffler	

The motion was agreed to.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—VETO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message to H.R. 6395, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the bill pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding? The question is debatable.

The majority leader is recognized.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the veto message on H.R. 6395, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, James M. Inhofe, Todd Young, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Braun, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, Richard

Burr, Pat Roberts, Shelley Moore Capito, Mitt Romney, Susan M. Collins, Richard C. Shelby, Thom Tillis, Lamar Alexander.

GUN VIOLENCE IN ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as we work to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, we must not forget our Nation's epidemic of gun violence that kills over 100 Americans every day.

Even during the holiday season, the deadly toll of shootings has continued.

On the day after Christmas, a gunman opened fire at a bowling alley restaurant in Rockford, IL, killing three and wounding three more. Mayor Tom McNamara has shown real leadership in this crisis. I ask unanimous consent that his statement be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Thomas Furseeth, Dennis Steinhoff, and Jerome Woodfork were murdered in that shooting. Among the wounded victims were a 14-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl.

We mourn the lives we lost and pray for all the victims and their families.

We also give thanks to the first responders who so often rush toward the sound of gunfire so they can save as many lives as they can.

In this case, officers from the Rockford Police Department arrived at the scene within 1 minute of the 911 calls and took the shooter into custody. Their conduct may sound routine to some, but make no mistake, their lives were at risk, and their courage was exceptional. We should never take the valor of so many in law enforcement for granted.

In the city of Chicago, at least 30 people were shot, 8 fatally, during the Christmas weekend.

The victims included a 57-year-old man who was killed while driving in his car, a young man killed while standing in a park at 9 in the morning, and a 24-year-old woman killed while sitting in a parked car.

We mourn these victims and pray for their families and for the wounded. But we must also dedicate ourselves to reducing these deadly shootings and to making our streets, our schools, and our neighborhoods safer.

This is a national problem. According to the Gun Violence Archive, on Christmas Day and the day after, there were six mass shootings across the country, defined as an incident where at least four people were shot. There have been 23 such shootings so far in December. Has this wanton, deadly violence become so routine that we are numb to it until it touches our homes and our families?

We must do better. Have we become so indifferent to gun violence in America that Senators in the highest legislative body in our land refuse to try to make our Nation safer? We must work for reforms like universal background checks and cracking down on illicit gun trafficking. And we must work to support children and families who have

faced violent trauma and to address disparities in healthcare and economic opportunity that contribute to increased violence.

Too many funerals, too many tears, too many lives lost to the scourge of gun violence.

We must do better.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EMAIL FROM ROCKFORD MAYOR TOM MCNAMARA RE DEC. 26 SHOOTING

Dear Friend,

As we all know, it has been such a difficult year and now a tragic week for our city. Last Saturday, three people lost their lives in a horrific and random act of violence at Don Carter Lanes, a long-time anchor of our community. Three others sustained serious injuries in the attack, with two of them still fighting for their lives. As we move to the conclusion of what has already been an arduous year, we find ourselves coming together to support the families who lost their loved ones, the survivors and their families, and the employees and owners of Don Carter Lanes.

Don Carter Lanes is a staple in Rockford and has been for decades. It's a family-owned business that hosts tournaments, charity fundraisers, birthday parties and also is a long-time supporter of our business community. This is a difficult time for owner Brad Sommer, the employees, and the entire bowling family. I know we will come together as a community to support them during this time.

Rockford is at its best when times are tough and already we've seen examples of this in the wake of Saturday night's incident. The Rockford Police officers who responded within one minute of the first 911 call are heroes who ran toward the danger. They entered the building quickly and without hesitation to protect lives and apprehend the suspect. We should all be grateful for their actions.

GOFUNDME FUNDRAISER

While working through the trauma of this incident, the owners of Don Carter Lanes set up a GoFundMe fundraiser to benefit the shooting victims and families. You can donate by visiting: <https://gofund.me/62caa4df>.

ILLINOIS BANK & TRUST CARE FUND

And, Miracle Mile Rockford, a business association serving owners, neighborhood groups and residents in the area around Don Carter Lanes, has set up a care fund in partnership with Illinois Bank & Trust to accept donations to benefit the families impacted by the shootings. IBT has begun the fund with a generous \$5,000 donation and community donations can be made at any IBT location or via online or mobile banking. Click Here to donate or for more info.

While last week's events are heart-breaking, we can all be proud of and heartened by the reaction of our community. Thank you for your continued support of my work as your mayor and for your support of our great city.

Tom

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 TABLED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting withdrawals which were laid on the table.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 5085. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the additional 2020 recovery rebates, to repeal section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9051. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase recovery rebate amounts to \$2,000 for individuals, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 4867

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4867, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Thursday, December 31; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, morning business be closed, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the veto message on H.R. 6395.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

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.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:51 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 31, 2020, at 12 noon.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on December 30, 2020 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

SHON J. MANASCO, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE MATTHEW P. DONOVAN, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 4, 2020.