

ever passed, but because of the Koch brothers' pressure, we had to rely entirely on Democrats to get that bill passed. We did not get one Republican vote in the Senate. We did not get one Republican vote in the House.

Constant assaults on workers' rights, endless attacks on the Affordable Care Act, and, of course, the rightwing billionaires own big payoff, big tax cuts for billionaires—it is probable that for all of the money that got thrown into this dark money apparatus by rightwing billionaires, some of them probably made more money than that back from the tax cuts that were delivered for them under the Trump administration. This is a it-pays-to-play dark money operation.

And the result is that all this dark money has reduced the once Grand Old Party to the political operation of a handful of extremist megadonors.

The dark money assault on our democracy is not over. Right now, Leonard Leo, his rightwing donors, and their dark money apparatus are devising the next phases of the scheme.

They have already captured the highest Court in the land, but they will not stop until they have enacted their entire radical agenda. They will turn their sights on State courts, on city councils, on local school boards—anywhere they can find a way to subvert democracy with dark money.

So now is the time to fight back, and the first step is to pass the DISCLOSE Act. It is way long past time that we shine the light on the dark money schemers.

You may recall that in the Citizens United decision, by a vote of 8 to 1, even that Court said that dark money is corrupting. That is an established principle of the Citizens United decision.

Well, if it is corrupting, we ought to get rid of it, because the American people deserve to know who captured their Supreme Court and who keeps flooding our politics with dark money.

When you spend that kind of money, there is a motivation, and voters, citizens, deserve to know.

To be continued.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we revert now to the closing script, and I will ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate consider the follow nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 921, 1101, 1102, 1040, and 1042; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Bruce I. Turner, of Colorado, for the

rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament; E. Martin Estrada, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California for the term of four years; Gregory J. Haanstad, of Wisconsin, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years; the following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203(a): to be Rear Admiral, Miriam L. Lafferty; the following named officer for appointment to serve as the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve in the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 309(b): to be Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Rear Adm. Miriam L. Lafferty, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-07, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Pakistan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$450 million. After

this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Pakistan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.
Other \$450 million.
Total \$450 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: This Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Case is a follow on effort and consolidation of prior F-16 sustainment and support cases to support the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet by reducing duplicate case activities and adding additional continued support elements.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included are U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics services for follow-on support of Pakistan's F-16 fleet to include participation in F-16 Aircraft Structural Integrity Program, Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program, International Engine Management Program, Engine Component Improvement Program, and other technical coordination groups; aircraft and engine hardware and software modifications and support; aircraft and engine spare repair/return parts, accessories and support equipment; classified and unclassified software and software support; publications, manuals, and technical documentation; precision measurement, calibration, lab equipment, and technical support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of aircraft maintenance and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PK-D-QAP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PK-D-NAP, PK-D-SAF, PK-D-QAJ, PK-D-QCX.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 7, 2022.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Pakistan—F-16 Case for Sustainment

The Government of Pakistan has requested to consolidate prior F-16 sustainment and support cases to support the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet by reducing duplicate case activities and adding additional continued support elements. Included are U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics services for follow-on support of Pakistan's F-16 fleet to include participation in F-16 Aircraft Structural Integrity Program, Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program, International Engine Management Program, Engine Component Improvement Program, and other technical coordination groups; aircraft and engine hardware and software modifications and support; aircraft and engine spare repair/return parts, accessories and support equipment; classified and unclassified software and software support; publications, manuals, and technical documentation; precision measurement, calibration, lab equipment,

and technical support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of aircraft maintenance and program support. The estimated total cost is \$450 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner nation that is a force for political stability in the region by allowing Pakistan to retain interoperability with U.S. and coalition forces in ongoing counterterrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations.

The proposed sale will improve Pakistan's capability to meet current and future threats by continuing the sustainment of its F-16 fleet, which is the Pakistan Air Force's premier multi-role jet fighter and greatly improves Pakistan's ability to project combat power in support of counterterrorism through its robust air-to-ground capability. Pakistan will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Corporation, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offsets proposed in conjunction with this sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Pakistan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 858, Jennifer H. Rearden, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, while returning to Washington, DC, on September 12, my flight was temporarily grounded by inclement weather, delaying my return to Washington, DC. As a result, I was unable to attend the vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 986, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

I would have voted yea on the confirmation had I been able to attend the vote.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted YES on rollcall vote No. 331 on the confirmation of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 1134, Natalie K.

Wight, of Oregon, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of four years.

REMEMBERING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, the attacks of September 11, 2001, exposed the American people to a level of vulnerability we had not encountered since the Second World War. While the terrorists failed in their objective of breaking us, they were successful in forcing the rest of the world to decide if they would give in to fear and remain silent or take a stand against the violent hatred that motivated the murders of almost 3,000 innocents.

For me, the memory of 9/11 is and always will be dominated by fear for the safety of my own children. The hours that passed without hearing from them were among the loneliest of my life, and indeed, that loneliness was shared by every American who spent the next few terrible days waiting for the phone to ring. Our sense of isolation was compounded by a growing chorus of voices that blamed Americans for the bloodshed in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

When Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II broke with centuries of tradition and directed the band of the Coldstream Guards to play the "Star-Spangled Banner" outside Buckingham Palace just 2 days after the attacks, she did much more than make a political statement. Her small act of rebellion confirmed that the special kinship between our nations will unite us forever under a common cause of freedom. While some chose cowardice in the wake of the attacks, she recognized the anguish of a friend and offered a gesture meant only to assure us that we were not, and never would be, alone.

For more than 70 years, the Queen ruled with the same grace and dignity she afforded the American people in our darkest hour. On behalf of all Tennesseans, I offer my gratitude for her long life of service, my condolences to the royal family, and my assurances to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth that, should great need arise, there will be no need to ask for our help, for we are already standing beside you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRED SMITH

• Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Fred Smith, founder and executive chairman of FedEx for receiving the distinguished L. Welch Pogue Award for his outstanding lifelong contributions to the field of commercial aviation.

On September 14, Mr. Smith, a proud Memphian and generous benefactor to his city, will receive due commemoration for his renowned achievements and contributions involving his organization, career, and passion.

Since 1971, the iconic Tennessee company he founded has facilitated deliveries not just in the United States but across the world.

This includes FedEx's work on the Project Airbridge Operation, a partnership executed by FedEx under the direction of the Federal Government that expedited the importation of critical supplies at the height of the pandemic.

This award, first presented in 1994, recognizes individuals with a lifetime of achievement in aviation and recognizes individuals who not only have a vision for where the industry is headed, but have acted to make it a reality.

I can think of no one more deserving to receive such an award. Let us celebrate this achievement and commitment to excellence that Mr. Smith has shown throughout his career.●

REMEMBERING LARRY PETREE

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Larry Petree, a beloved member of the Bakersfield community and a pioneer in the creation of a uniquely Californian brand of country music.

Larry Petree was born in Oklahoma in 1933 at the heart of the Great Depression. Like so many Americans from Dust Bowl communities in the 1930s, at the age of 9, Larry's family moved out West and settled in Bakersfield, CA. He attended Bakersfield High School before going on to serve a tour of duty in the U.S. Army and then working for over three decades as a mechanic with the Kern County Fire Department, where he could overhaul truck engines with ease.

But Larry's friends and fans knew him best working with a different instrument. From his seat behind his pedal steel guitar, he helped to produce the "Bakersfield Sound," an entirely new, rock 'n roll-inspired genre of country music that introduced the sounds of California country to a national audience in the 1960s.

For decades, Larry's masterful control of the twangy steel guitar brought life and energy to the honky-tonks and watering holes of the Central Valley. Playing alongside country artists Red Simpson, Tommy Hays, and the Western Swingsters, his music joined the likes of Merle Haggard and Buck Owens to help fuel a movement that proved California could be home to the country music industry. And he did it all, in large part, thanks to the support of his wife Betty, his beloved partner for over 60 years.

California is grateful for his service to our country, his contributions to our culture, and for the timeless music he introduced to our communities.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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