

the USSC review and what conclusions, if any, did the USSC reach with respect to those investigations?

What specific evidence led to the USSC's conclusion "that there is no reason to believe that this was intentional but rather the result of tragic circumstances"?

What were the "tragic circumstances" the USSC was referring to?

If the soldier who fired the fatal shot did not intend to kill Ms. Abu Akleh, what did he intend?

If, as the Israeli authorities appear to be saying, the soldier missed who he was aiming at and hit Ms. Abu Akleh by mistake, who was he aiming at? What evidence is there, if any, that anyone in the immediate vicinity of where Ms. Abu Akleh was shot was firing at the IDF soldier who killed her?

What steps will the State Department take to ensure the independent, credible investigation the Secretary, and many others, have called for?

What steps has the State Department taken to determine whether the Leahy Law applies in this case?

On July 5, the Department spokesperson said "we would want to see accountability in any case of a wrongful death. That would especially—and is especially the case in the wrongful death of an American citizen, as was Shireen Abu Akleh." What steps does the Department plan to take to ensure such accountability?

I have also urged Israeli authorities to discipline those who were responsible for, and participated in, the chaos that erupted during Ms. Abu Akleh's funeral procession, when Israeli police needlessly beat mourners with batons, including the pallbearers, causing them to momentarily drop one end of the casket. Has anything been done?

There is an increasing foreboding that, as in so many other cases and like the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, there will never be the independent, credible investigation and accountability that Ms. Abu Akleh's family, the Secretary of State, I, and others have called for. That would further jeopardize the safety of journalists everywhere who courageously risk their lives to inform the public. An independent, credible investigation—meaning not by the IDF and not by the PA—but with their full cooperation, must be conducted and the findings made public. Whether her killing was intentional, reckless, or a tragic mistake, there must be accountability. And if it was intentional, and if no one is held accountable, then the Leahy Law must be applied.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Madam 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 motion to invoke cloture

on Executive Calendar No. 1043, Arianna J. Freeman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

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

REMEMBERING JODIE FINGLAND

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Jodie Finland, a dedicated public servant who passed away on September 4 after battling a long illness.

Jodie devoted her life's work to expanding educational opportunities for students across the country, and she will be remembered for her wonderful, caring personality. I join my staff and so many others who had the privilege of knowing and working with Jodie through her tireless work at the Department of Education in mourning her passing and remembering her life.

Over the years, Jodie held many different positions at the Department of Education in the Obama administration. She served as chief of staff, deputy assistant secretary, and principal adviser for legislative affairs all in the Office for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, and worked closely with the Senate and House in these roles.

Whether briefing Members of Congress, preparing the Secretary for a committee hearing, or providing strategic advice to senior managers at the Department, Jodie was known for being kind, calm, and extremely knowledgeable. She was particularly known for her skill in higher education policy.

Jodie dedicated her career to the advancement and improvement of education for all, and her work impacted so many students, educators, and families across the country. She will be remembered fondly.

REMEMBERING MARGARET "MEGAN" MICHAEL DEBRANSKI KELHART

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Margaret "Megan" Michael Debranski Kelhart. Megan passed away on August 19, 2022, after a heroic battle with cancer.

Megan spent her career as a dedicated public servant. Megan most recently worked as head of congressional and legislative affairs for the Bureau of Reclamation. Prior to that, she worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Senate. In these roles, she worked with nearly every congressional office.

Megan was born on December 2, 1975, in Norfolk, VA. In 1994, Megan graduated from Lakeland High School where she excelled as a student and was a standout tennis player on a State champion tennis team. She was also a cheerleader, school band member, and prom queen. Megan later studied political science at Virginia Tech, where she was an active member of the Alpha

Chi Omega sorority and later received her master of science degree in natural resources.

In 2001, Megan met her husband Matthew, while playing in the Senate summer softball league. The couple married in October of 2003. Together, they enjoyed college football and travelling the world together. In 2009, Megan and her husband welcomed their son, Matteson Michael Donnan Kelhart.

Megan is survived by her husband Matthew and their son Matteson of Alexandria, VA; father Dr. Michael Debranski and mother Margaret Debranski of Suffolk, VA; grandmother Margaret Beamon of Suffolk, VA; father-in-law and his wife Joseph and Lily Kelhart of Bethlehem, PA; and mother-in-law and her husband Terri and Joseph Costa of Perkasio, PA; and many other loved ones.

I ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the life of Margaret "Megan" Michael Debranski Kelhart.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING HEARTLAND CHIA

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Heartland Chia of Franklin, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Chris Kummer's small business was founded on an idea that virtually no one thought possible: successful chia crops planted and harvested in the United States. But as a fifth-generation farmer, Mr. Kummer is no stranger to the challenges posed by mother nature. Thus, with decades of farming experience under his belt and a tireless dedication to his crops, Mr. Kummer has turned this once crazy idea into a thriving business. Founded in 2012, Heartland Chia develops and markets locally grown chia to buyers across the country. Chris's wife, Jill Kummer, joins her husband at the helm of their business, handling most of the marketing and administrative duties while her husband works with the crop directly in the field. Together, the Kummerts are proud to be the only chia seed growers in the U.S.A., a tremendous feat that adds to the biodiversity of Kentucky's burgeoning agricultural industry.

Mr. Kummer will be the first to tell you that his business would not be possible had it not been for the visionary researchers at the University of Kentucky College of Food, Agriculture, and Environment. Since his great-grandfather planted his first crop on their family farm in 1889, the Kummerts have grown crops traditional to the Midwestern U.S., such as soy, wheat, and corn. It never occurred to them to plant chia as the plant requires a very

long summer in order to grow and produce seed, meaning that most of the world's chia plants are grown in regions near the equator, such as Central America. Farmers everywhere took it for granted that this plant could not be grown north of the U.S.-Mexico border, but the breeding program over at the University of Kentucky sought to change that. Over a period spanning 6 to 8 years, researchers Dr. David Hildebrand and Dr. Tim Phillips, both plant and soil scientists, used decades old breeding methods to create a new strain of chia that would flower earlier in the year, allowing the crop to survive in less temperate climates than those near the equator. Once the scientists created a product they were confident in, they were careful in selecting a steward for their new "Early Flowering" chia seed. Dr. Hildebrand knew Chris Kummer from his days as a student at UK and knew of his farming background; therefore he immediately came to mind.

In 2011, Dr. Phillips and Dr. Hildebrand gave Mr. Kummer half the world's seed supply of this new strain of chia. In the first year of planting, the Kummers lost most of their chia crops, as they and the researchers over at University of Kentucky were still learning best practices for growing this new crop. But through the persistence instilled in him from his farmer forebears, Chris and his wife absorbed as much knowledge as they could from this first planting season and put it to the test the next year. By the end of their second planting season, the Kummers had already entered into commercial production. The success of this second season led UK to purchase a patent for the seed, ensuring that it only be used for benefit of American farmers, domestic food manufacturers, and domestic consumers.

Today, Heartland Chia works with several farmers across four different States that all use the Kummer's chia for manufacturing processes. By producing this previously ungrowable plant in the U.S., the Kummers have not only added to the biodiversity of the State, they have created a reliable source of what is now widely considered "a superfood." In a recent publication, the Mayo Clinic listed chia as one of the few foods truly deserving the distinction of "superfood" due its long list of health and nutritional benefits. Given this growth in consumer demand, it was only natural that Mr. Kummer would embark on this experimental journey with the support of his family, University of Kentucky scientists, as well as food manufacturers seeking top-quality chia.

Chris has been celebrated for his innovative spirit as several food companies encouraged him to pursue this unlikely feat of growing chia on American soil. Chris has fulfilled a need within the U.S. market as many food suppliers lacked a reliable source for top quality chia seeds. After overcoming the odds, the Kummers con-

tinue to grow and produce their own chia and market their products direct to consumers and to food suppliers alike. Not only are they doing a great service to the economy and ecology of Kentucky, they are spreading the good word about an unlikely food that greatly bolsters our body's health. Through persistence and dedication, the Kummers have made their dream a reality, to the great benefit of Kentucky and beyond. Congratulations to Chris and Jill Kummer, along with the entire team at Heartland Chia. I thank you for your innovative outlook and entrepreneurial spirit, and I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, 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 appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3103. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title.

S. 4785. An act to extend by 19 days the authorization for the special assessment for the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

H.R. 5754. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 12:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 442. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes.

S. 2293. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-

sistance Act to provide certain employment rights to reservists of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 4205. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 884. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national aviation preparedness plan for communicable disease outbreaks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1468. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3173. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5774. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that unmet needs after a major disaster are met.

H.R. 5865. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Bluebonnet Drive in Stafford, Texas, as the "Leonard Scarcella Post Office Building".

H.R. 5916. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7735. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the appraisal requirements for certain loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7846. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2022, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7939. An act to make permanent certain educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8260. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to shorten the timeframe for designation of benefits under Department of Veterans Affairs life insurance programs, to improve the treatment of undisbursed life insurance benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 15, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 3103. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title.

S. 4785. An act to extend by 19 days the authorization for the special assessment for the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.