

First, I would like to acknowledge Ranking Member INHOFE, whose leadership on this committee and in this body has been invaluable. His commitment to our men and women in uniform is unwavering, and he was instrumental in helping produce this bipartisan legislation. In honor of his well-earned retirement, I am pleased that the committee voted to name this year's bill the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act.

As we discuss the NDAA, we must keep in mind that the United States is engaged in a long-term strategic competition with China and Russia. Beijing poses the primary potential threat to our national security, as the only country in the world with the economic and technological capacity to mount a sustained challenge to our interests. And, as we have seen with disturbing clarity, Putin has demonstrated his willingness to inflict violence and undermine global world order for his own benefit. The importance of U.S. support for the Ukrainian people cannot be overstated. They are fighting our fight, and we must aid them.

Elsewhere, states like Iran and North Korea continue to push the boundaries of military brinksmanship, and issues like terrorism, climate change, and pandemics remain persistent threats. The interconnected nature of these problems must drive how we resource and transform our tools of national power. The passage of the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act will be a critical step toward meeting these complex challenges.

Turning to the specifics of this year's defense bill, the NDAA authorizes \$817 billion for the Department of Defense and \$29 billion for national security programs within the Department of Energy. The bill contains a number of important provisions that I would like to briefly highlight.

To begin, we have to ensure that the United States can outcompete, deter, and prevail against our near-peer rivals. This NDAA confronts China and Russia by fully investing in the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, the European Deterrence Initiative, and the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.

As part of this effort, the bill increases the defense topline authorization by \$45 billion to address the effects of inflation and accelerate implementation of the national defense strategy. This topline boost will accelerate the production of certain munitions and increase procurement of aircraft, naval vessels, armored vehicles, long-range fires, and other resources needed by the services and combatant commands.

The committee has also included an authorization of \$1 billion for the National Defense Stockpile to acquire strategic and critical minerals currently in shortfall. This will go a long way to help meet the defense, industrial, and essential civilian needs of the United States.

We also include additional support for our industrial base to produce the

munitions needed to backfill our stocks, while also keeping supplies flowing to Ukraine and other European allies. Many Senators on both sides of the aisle have been actively engaged in this effort, but I especially want to recognize Senator SHAHEEN's leadership. She has been instrumental in pushing new authorities that can be helpful for the Department of Defense to address the current challenge we have and better posture us for our future. Senator SHAHEEN's work has been highly impactful in the direction we ultimately took, which is reflected in the amendment that Senator INHOFE and I have offered as part of the managers' package.

Relatedly, America's capacity for technological innovation has long given us the strongest economy and military on Earth, but this advantage is not a given. It must be nurtured and maintained. To that end, this year's NDAA authorizes significant funding increases for cutting-edge technologies like microelectronics, hypersonic weapons, and low-cost unmanned aircraft. Similarly, it increases funding to support U.S. Cyber Command's Hunt Forward Operations and artificial intelligence capabilities.

And, as we navigate threats of nuclear escalation from Russia and increasing capabilities from China, the NDAA enhances our deterrence by helping to marginalize the U.S. nuclear triad. It also makes progress in ensuring the safety, security, and reliability of our nuclear stockpile, delivery systems, and infrastructure; increasing capacity in theater and homeland missile defense; and strengthening non-proliferation programs.

Importantly, this year's NDAA provides a 4.6-percent pay raise for both servicemembers and their Department of Defense civilian workforce. It also authorizes additional funding to ease the impacts of inflation on the force and provides resources to support recruiting and retention needs.

When I introduce the fiscal year 2023 NDAA, it will be a substitute to the House-passed NDAA. This substitute will be modified with a package of amendments that have been cleared on both sides. There are 75 amendments, including 6 major authorization bills from other committees.

Again, I am pleased that we have brought this bill to the floor so the entire Senate has an opportunity to participate in the process.

I also want to take a moment to thank all the staff who accomplished this herculean task in a week. The staff of the Armed Services Committee worked tirelessly to ensure every possible amendment was cleared and included.

I particularly want to thank Kevin Davis of the Office of Legislative Counsel, who went above and beyond to draft this substitute.

The staff did a remarkable job, working tirelessly. They were led by Liz King and John Wason, and I salute

both of them and all the members of the staff for their extraordinary efforts.

The topline defense number in this bill, together with the allocations set by Chairman LEAHY for defense and nondefense funding across the appropriations bills, provides a realistic balance for funding the military and the rest of the Federal Government. Once we have completed work on this important authorization bill, we need to complete the appropriations process.

Let me conclude by once again thanking Ranking Member INHOFE and my colleagues. I particularly want to recognize and thank the Presiding Officer, Senator KING of Maine, for his great work, and all for their thoughtful and bipartisan efforts to develop this important piece of legislation. I would also like to thank the staff, as I said before, for their tireless efforts on this bill throughout the year.

I look forward to a thoughtful debate on the issues that face our Department of Defense and national security.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. REED, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the National Defense Authorization Act is the most important bill we pass every year—and especially the most important bill we pass for our troops. This year is no different.

Some may disagree with me, but let me point you to an old document not too many people read anymore, called the Constitution; it tells us what we are supposed to be doing here: defending America.

This is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I know my colleagues share in my desire to get this bill passed. I am particularly eager to get this bill passed because, as you all know, it is my last NDAA to shepherd through the Senate, and there has been a lot of them at this point.

Specifically, I want to take a moment to recognize my good friend, JACK REED. We are both Army veterans and understand that the most important thing we do all year is the NDAA, where we work to get the troops what they need to do their jobs and make sure they are taken care of. I don't think there are two closer friends than JACK REED and myself here in the Senate, and I am proud to have worked on my last defense bill alongside him.

This bill is truly a bipartisan, comprehensive product. We have already agreed to more than 70 bipartisan amendments in the manager's package of amendments, and those numbers don't include the hundreds of provisions written by Members that are already in the bill.

It is easy to forget what brings us together around here, but the National Defense Authorization Act is a bill we must put aside our differences and pass every year. We are about to enter the 62nd year of passing the NDAA with far-reaching, bipartisan support.

Senator REED, the Armed Services Committee, and I, we worked hard to make this a bipartisan bill—in the base text, in the committee mark, and now with this manager's package of amendments authored by many Members of the Senate.

We are one step closer to getting this product to the finish line and making sure our military is provided for in the coming years.

I can't think of one thing we have come together to pass for over 60 years straight other than the NDAA. It truly is remarkable.

I thank my colleagues for their contributions, I look forward to our continued debate on this important bill—the most important bill we will do all year.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REHOBOTH BEACH PATROL

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Rehoboth Beach Patrol in Rehoboth Beach, DE. With over a century of excellence in safety, a strong history in lifeguard competition achievements, and a fully operational emergency medical unit, the Rehoboth Beach Patrol is a leading beach patrol in the Nation.

It takes a world class beach patrol to protect a world-class beach, and over the years, the beach patrol has expanded from its humble beginnings. The Rehoboth Beach Patrol was established in 1921 by Benjamin F. Shaw and the Red Cross with just two guards. In 1938, it expanded to 17 guards protecting eight beaches. Over the years, the beach patrol added additional guards to a total of 65 and lifesaving equipment, as Rehoboth Beach attracted more and more tourists far and wide to enjoy its beaches.

Perhaps most impressive is that over its more than 100-year history, the beach patrol has recorded only one drowning under its watch. The beach patrol prides itself on ensuring safety both in the water and on its beaches, something that a machine or camera cannot do. It is the skill of the lifeguards, their attention, and ability to manage the beach that keeps everyone safe and having fun.

When an organization like the Rehoboth Beach Patrol reaches a 100-year

milestone, it has seen much more change than just the style of bathing suits, it has also seen a change in the demographics of its members. From just two men to a diverse group of lifeguards that are half women, the beach patrol is a reflection of the changes in the seaside town over the century.

I am honored to rise today to honor the many men and women of the Rehoboth Beach Patrol who have sacrificed their safety in order to protect others. They are true public servants who make Rehoboth Beach—and our great State—a wonderful and safe place for people of all ages to visit and enjoy. You are all a point of pride for our State, and I wish you many more years of service to Delaware.●

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 REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 30, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 958. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the allowable use criteria for new access points grants for community health centers.

S. 1198. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2551. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish or otherwise provide an artificial intelligence training program for the acquisition workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 2794. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

S. 3470. An act to provide for the implementation of certain trafficking in contracting provisions, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 45. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 6833.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5641) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to increase the threshold for eligibility for assistance under sections 403, 406, 407, and 502 of such Act, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6833) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3969. An act to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to explicitly authorize distribution of grant funds to the voting accessibility protection and advocacy system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the system serving the American Indian consortium, and for other purposes.

S. 4900. An act to reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs and pilot programs, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bills were signed on September 30, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate by the Vice President.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on October 4, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 91. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 South Pendleton Street in Easley, South Carolina, as the "Private First Class Barrett Lyle Austin Post Office Building".

H.R. 92. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Johnson Street in Pickens, South Carolina, as the "Specialist Four Charles Johnson Post Office".

H.R. 468. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects.

H.R. 2142. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Manhattan Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the "Indiana Hunt-Martin Post Office Building".

H.R. 3508. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39 West Main Street, in Honeoye Falls, New York, as the "CW4 Christian J. Koch Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3539. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna, Guam, as the "Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office".

H.R. 4693. An act to advance targeted and evidence-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of global malnutrition and to improve the coordination of such programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5809. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located