

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these articles 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 Raytheon Missiles and Defense (RMD), Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit the Republic of Korea on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews, as well as to provide training and maintenance support in country.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-78

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) is a Navy surface-to-air missile that provides area and ship self-defense. The missile is intended to project power and contribute to raid annihilation by destroying manned fixed and rotary wing aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Land Attack Cruise Missiles, and Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles in flight. It was designed to fulfill the need for a vertically launched, extended range missile compatible with the AEGIS Weapon System to be used against extended range threats at sea, near land, and overland. The SM-6 combines the tested legacy of Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) propulsion and ordnance with an active radio frequency seeker allowing for over-the-horizon engagements, enhanced capability at extended ranges, and increased firepower.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Republic of Korea (ROK) can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the ROK.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intent to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to S.1490, the Kids Online Safety Act.

I agree with the sponsors of this bill that social media and online games can have a negative impact on the mental health of minors. However, this bill makes the mistake of empowering State attorneys general already enforcing bans on LGBTQ information and prosecuting individuals for helping

others receive abortion healthcare. Armed with this bill, all a State attorney general would need to do is link the content they want to scrub from the internet with causing "anxiety" or "depression" and demonstrate that the platform allowed minors to access such content. For everyone except the largest platforms, the act of being served with the complaint, no matter how specious, would be enough incentive to take down the content in question. Sadly, some deep-pocketed groups that promote anti-choice and anti-LGBTQ policies are cheerleading the bill for this reason.

Until the bill is amended to foreclose the ability of State attorneys general to wage war on important reproductive and LGBTQ content, I will object to any unanimous consent request in relation to this legislation.

2023 WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, November 19, 2023, marks the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, WDoR, commemorating the millions of people killed and injured by the devastating cost of car crashes. On this day, communities across the Nation and globe gather to call for action against the roadway safety crisis, recognizing that these are not isolated incidents but rather widespread problems with known solutions. This day also serves as a powerful reminder of the critical work of emergency responders in saving lives and as a moment to stand in solidarity to recognize how road traffic deaths and injuries deeply impact our community. Now is the time to take decisive action. By investing in proven, tangible measures and enacting legislation, we can prevent further loss of life. Our Nation must invest in advanced technology and the redesign of our roadways to spare more families the tragedy of losing a loved one.

Like other issues that are uniquely American, the U.S. failure to protect all road users, especially pedestrians and cyclists, makes us stand out among developed nations. According to the World Health Organization, the United States ranks 47th out of 54 in traffic fatality rate among high-income nations. In 2021, there were 42,915 deaths due to roadway crashes in the U.S., the highest figure since 2005. This highlights the lack of progress that has been made in addressing these preventable losses.

As we solemnly observe this day, we are reminded of the profound message behind this year's poignant theme: Safe Streets for All. Since its inception in 1995 and its subsequent adoption by the United Nations for global observance on November 15, 2005, the WDoR has become a catalyst for change across continents. It is a day that compels us to reflect on the heartbreaking losses experienced by families worldwide due to unsafe road conditions.

Our call to action is clear and urgent: We must not only remember but also advocate for immediate change. This means demanding from our leaders a steadfast commitment to invest in and reimagine our infrastructure. By fostering the creation of safer vehicles, redesigning our roadways, and ensuring walkable and bike-friendly communities, especially for those communities that have been persistently marginalized, we can transform our streets into corridors of safety rather than peril.

In honoring the lives tragically cut short by traffic accidents, we confront the profound loss of family members, partners, and cherished friends, alongside the burdens of caring for those left with permanent disabilities. Yet it is in our collective commitment to act that we find the truest form of remembrance, ensuring such tragedies become rare exceptions. Rejecting complacency, we honor the victims by embracing our shared duty to prevent further needless interruptions of life stories on our roads. As a community, both local and global, we are called to forge a path toward safer streets, decisively acting to protect every life and using the memories of those we have lost as a catalyst for real and enduring change.

REMEMBERING HERBERT "BERTIE" BOWMAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Herbert "Bertie" Bowman who passed away on October 25, 2023, at the age of 92 after a remarkable life and over six decades of service to the U.S. Senate.

As has been noted by my colleague Senator CARDIN, Bertie was the embodiment of the American Dream. Bertie began his Capitol Hill career by sweeping steps of the Capitol after running away from his South Carolina home, where his family members were sharecroppers, following a chance encounter with then-Senator Burnet Maybank in a Summerton, SC, general store. Senator Maybank invited Bertie—then only 13 years old—to come see him in Washington sometime, and that is just what he did.

A week later, Bertie hopped on a train bound for Union Station and ended up in the Senator's office. The Senator gave him his first job—to sweep the Capitol steps for \$2 a week—and from there, he went on to build a reputation on Capitol Hill as someone who could do it all. According to his memoir, Bertie's mother gave him the best career advice anyone could ask for. She said, "Be patient and do what you're supposed to do."

Over his many decades in the Senate, one job led to another, and Bertie eventually got a clerical position with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1966. He left the Senate in 1990 to run

his own chauffeur service, but he returned to the Foreign Relations Committee a decade later as hearing coordinator—a job he held until his nineties.

Through it all, Bertie exhibited the decency and courtesy that led him to befriend all those who knew him.

I want to honor Bertie Bowman for his lifelong dedication and service to this institution and to our democracy and to thank him for setting the example of civility to which we all should aspire.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM B. SHEAR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I request unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with the Senator from Iowa.

As chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I rise to celebrate the venerable career of Director William Shear of the U.S. Government Accountability Office—GAO—and congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Shear is a Director at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. As a leader on the Financial Markets and Community Investment team, his portfolio addresses small business issues, community and economic development, and Native American housing issues. In addition to these important issues, Mr. Shear's portfolio includes oversight of many Small Business Administration—SBA—programs that address contracting, disaster assistance, access to capital, and entrepreneurial counseling.

Mr. Shear's career at the GAO spans over two decades. In this time, he has had profound impact on the government's small business programs and served thousands of citizens who use these important programs every day. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Shear testified before the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to provide his essential perspective on the SBA's COVID relief programs. His testimony emphasized the importance of conducting effective oversight and of ensuring that relief was delivered to the people who needed it most.

At the height of the pandemic, my colleagues and I on the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship worked tirelessly on behalf of America's small businesses and worked to ensure that the most vulnerable small businesses received the help they needed. Mr. Shear's commitment to upholding the integrity of the SBA's relief programs was foundational to our work. His testimony supported the committee's mission to serve America's most vulnerable businesses during an unprecedented time of uncertainty and chaos, and we are grateful to him for his invaluable contributions.

Mr. Shear also contributed to the committee's efforts to improve the SBA's contracting programs. His testimony provided the committee with valuable insight into the SBA's efforts

to provide better contracting opportunities for small businesses, especially women-owned and veteran-owned firms, and his suggestions on how to improve these programs were indispensable to us.

Advocating for small business growth, especially among women-owned and veteran-owned small businesses, is critically important. About 99 percent of the businesses in my home State of New Hampshire are small, and these businesses employ about half of Granite Staters. With GAO, Mr. Shear has been a tireless advocate for these same small businesses. He has worked hard with the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the SBA to ensure that the programs established to help America's small businesses continue to do so and continue to improve.

As chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am honored to thank Mr. Shear for his contributions to GAO, to the committee's work, and to small businesses across the country. We will miss his hard work and his advocacy. I offer him warm congratulations on his retirement and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have had the firsthand opportunity to see the impact that small businesses have on local communities and the work of dedicated public servants to ensure that they remain the backbone of the economy. Today, I would like to recognize Mr. William Shear, a public servant who has dedicated over 20 years to America's small businesses and wish him a happy retirement.

Mr. Shear serves as the Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO. In this role, he has distinguished himself as an expert on the Small Business Administration's disaster assistance lending, government contracting, and small business credit programs. In his time at GAO, he served as Acting Director for Physical Infrastructure and was Assistant Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment. Mr. Shear is a graduate of the University of Chicago with both a master's degree in public policy and a Ph.D. in economics. In addition to his time at GAO, he is a former lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught city and regional planning.

Mr. Shear is no stranger to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. As the Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment, he has testified numerous times before the committee as a champion of saving the American taxpayer their hard-earned dollars. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Deepwater Horizon disaster, and Hurricane Sandy, Mr. Shear was there to provide answers with his insight and knowl-

edge on disaster assistance. His testimonies provided the committee with meaningful solutions that assisted the small businesses in our home States and communities.

I want to congratulate Mr. Shear on his outstanding career at GAO. We appreciate his dedication to America's small businesses and the expertise he provided to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. I would like to associate myself with the comments of the chair.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CABANA

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, this week, NASA Associate Administrator, former astronaut, and my friend Colonel Robert Cabana announced his retirement, effective December 31, after more than 38 years of public service to NASA. In his current capacity as Associate Administrator, Colonel Cabana served as the Agency's highest ranking civil servant, third highest ranking NASA official, and the senior adviser to NASA Administrator Bill Nelson and Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy. Colonel Cabana's legacy, among many things, includes a significant contribution to the Nation's human spaceflight program and decades of energetic leadership at the Agency. On a personal level, he played an important leadership role within the astronaut corps, including as chief of NASA's Astronaut Office when I was as an astronaut and during my selection and early years at NASA. I am honored to congratulate Bob on his retirement and thank him for his many years of service.

Born in Minneapolis, Bob graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, became a naval aviator, and graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in 1981. During his military career, he logged over 7,000 hours in more than 50 different kinds of aircraft. He retired as a colonel from the U.S. Marine Corps in September 2000.

Bob was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1985 and went on to log 38 days in space during four shuttle missions. He piloted the Space Shuttle Discovery on missions STS-41 in 1990 and STS-53 in 1992. During STS-53, the crew conducted microgravity research experiments that helped pave the way for future operations aboard the International Space Station. He commanded Columbia's STS-65 mission in 1994, and in 1998, his final flight, he commanded Space Shuttle *Endeavour* on STS-88, which was the first International Space Station assembly mission.

The International Space Station has been orbiting Earth about every 90 minutes and conducting groundbreaking science since November 2000 thanks to the contributions by Bob during STS-88. While at the Johnson Space Center, he served as the lead astronaut in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory, Mission Control Spacecraft Communicator—CAPCOM—and as the director of Flight Crew Operations Directorate.