

But I will say something about this class that I think that the Presiding Officer may have noticed and definitely a lot of the staff who serves on the floor. I was literally struck, when I came in on the first day and started engaging with them, as I often do, that there was something special about this class, because it is the value I most admire in anybody that I meet. In this class, whether they are pages who serve on that side of the aisle or on this side of the aisle, I found them immediately to have this important superpower for coping in life, and that is that this page class is kind. They really are good people. I have to say that that is how I will remember this class. I will try desperately to forget their bad jokes. I will always, though, remember their kindness.

I want to tell this page class that you brought something special to this floor; that you all contributed more than you probably realize; that you, in your humility, probably underestimate the impact you bring to this place. I know you are going to have special memories here. In fact, it is amazing, as I feel sometimes just as a Senator, that we all had a chance in our service together in the Senate to be on the frontlines of history, to witness some of the greatest debates of humanity right now. You heard one from the Presiding Officer, who just spoke, and who spoke to issues that go to the heart of what this country is about, what this country stands for, what this country will do. That was a privilege that you were a part of.

But, to me, what I think is important about the role that you have played in the short period of time that you have been here is the fact that I think you remind a lot of us who are two and three and four times your age that, when you still come in here, despite how tired you are, and still have that look of wonder about this place, you help us to remember what a privilege it is to be here.

So I just want this class to know that it has been my privilege, as one Senator, who, I believe, probably speaks for most—that it was a privilege to serve with you in the United States of America.

I hope you remember that the highest calling of citizenship is service; that this is not your last time that you answer that call whether it is in your communities, your neighborhoods, whether it is to your States or to this Nation. I hope that you always aspire to show your patriotism not by what you say but by what you do.

And, dear God, don't let a harsh world—a world that can be mean—ever stop you from being as kind as you were on the day that I first met you.

I love that story about the man who goes up to a young person and says: What do you want to be when you grow up?

And the confident young person looked at them and simply said: I want to be kind.

I think you guys already have achieved one of the greatest callings for people, which is to be good to one another. In fact, I look at our political climate in America, and it is often not a good demonstration of that high human virtue. So I want to thank you for your kindness. I forgive you for your bad jokes, but most of all, I hope that you will not change that spirit that resides in your hearts.

Thank you for your service here to the U.S. Senate. What an honor it has been to be with you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The majority leader.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for months, I have said that the only way we are going to pass a national security supplemental is if both sides are serious about an agreement.

Democrats are resolute on getting something done. We are committed to keeping our promise to helping our friends in Ukraine in their fight against Putin. We know that if Putin prevails in Ukraine, the consequences for Western democracy and for the American people will be severe and haunt us for years.

Democrats are also resolute on reaching an agreement on securing the southern border. We know how important this is. We are negotiating in good faith and want to get this done in a bipartisan way.

And Democrats are resolute to send more aid to Israel, provide more humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza, and hold the line against the Chinese Communist Party in the Indo-Pacific.

As we have seen over the past day, getting a bipartisan agreement on the supplemental is very difficult. But I am glad that now negotiations are continuing to move forward. Of course, there are still issues that must be settled, but negotiators will work all weekend in an effort to get this done.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of our current pages be printed in the RECORD.

Thank you, Pages, for your good work, and have a good life.

Let me just say to the pages, today is your final day in your class. It has been a very busy session, but you pages have done a great job bringing the Senate to life.

The pages are always here when we need them: early in the mornings and late into the evenings. They have served this institution with grace and dignity, and it is an honor to have you with us.

On behalf of a grateful Senate, we say thank you and wish you all the best as you return home, move on to your next adventures. And again, to repeat, have a good life.

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

#### 2023 FALL PAGES NAMES

Peyton Bolling, Jessie Cai, Jacob Cozze, Sloane Demetriou, Isabella “Bella” Dereszkiwicz-Hodowany, Miles Erdly-Liang, Oliver Forero, Rishi Gurudevan, Lauren Holland, Graydon Martone, Piper Richardson, Graham Shabino, Isabella Soto, Avery Upeslakis.

Alan Ventura Duran, Theia Wepaloki, Michael Bicksel, Aleyah Carbajal, Chace Durant-Asbury, Eben Francis, Spencer Headlee, Yosef Herrera, John Honnold, Anna Kardashyan, Victoria Lavinder, Elsa Remington, Arjun Sandil, Ella Stillick, Sophia “Sophie” Wright.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 347 on December 18, 2023. Had I not missed the vote I would have voted yea, to confirm Mr. O'Malley's confirmation.

#### S. RES. 504

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, the Senator from Vermont last week proposed to discharge the Foreign Relations Committee of S. Res. 504, his resolution to require the production by the Department of State of a report on Israel's human rights practices.

Senator SANDERS' resolution is intended to serve the important purpose of ensuring robust Senate oversight of how U.S. security assistance has been deployed by the State of Israel in Gaza, where humanitarian conditions are catastrophic. However, Senator SANDERS' measure as drafted is overbroad, with potentially significant unintended consequences.

Beyond its reporting requirements with respect to ongoing Israeli operations in Gaza, Senator SANDERS' resolution requires within 30 days the affirmative certification by the Secretary of State that no individual unit of the Israel Defense Forces receiving U.S. security assistance over the past 5 years has committed any gross violations of human rights. The Department of State cannot feasibly undertake within 30 days the far-reaching analysis of IDF operations over half a decade that would be required to make such a certification.

The Department of State would therefore, in my view, be unable to comply with the reporting requirements in Senator SANDERS' resolution, potentially triggering a mandatory cessation of U.S. security assistance to Israel before the Senate even had the opportunity to review its report.

Accordingly, I voted to table S. Res. 504.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MADISON MARSH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate 2nd Lieutenant Madison Marsh on being selected as Miss America 2024. Lieutenant Marsh is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, currently pursuing a master's in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, and represented the State of Colorado in the national pageant. Although she is now famous across the country, she is best known in Arkansas as a native of Fort Smith, and our State is proud of her achievements.

Marsh is the first Active-Duty member of the military to win the Miss America crown, and she is already setting a tremendous example for young women nationwide with a desire to make a difference. Her aptitude in the field of aerospace and her commitment to military and civic service is an example for us all. Marsh grew up in Fort Smith as a hard-working student, athlete, and community leader. She excelled in the classroom while participating in numerous extracurricular activities including cheering at Southside High School, pursuing her private pilot's license, and working toward her black belt in Taekwondo. She has been an inspiration to her friends, family and residents of her hometown for many years.

Her life was altered forever when her mother passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2018. Despite the tragedy she and her family experienced, Marsh persevered in her goals, honoring her mother along the way. Marsh turned her grief into action with the creation of the Whitney Marsh Foundation. As president and founder, Marsh has already raised more than a quarter-million dollars for research with her leadership team at the foundation and brought her voice to this cause in the Halls of Congress. In addition to her public policy studies, she is also a graduate intern at the Harvard Medical School, contributing to efforts to use artificial intelligence to detect pancreatic cancer.

Having graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2023 with a degree in physics, she was selected for pilot training, which is scheduled to begin after completion of her master's program, with the goal of becoming an Air Force fighter pilot. She has commented in recent interviews that she became interested in aeronautics at a young age and set about doing what was necessary to become a pilot. Her hard work and a passion for aeronautics and space led her to the U.S. Air Force Academy, where she shined. During her time at USAFA, Lieutenant Marsh was honored as a two-time National Astronaut Scholar, eight-time Dean's List honoree, named to the Superintendent's

List three times, and interned with NASA for gamma-ray burst research.

As a native of Fort Smith and the chair of the U.S. Senate Air Force Caucus, I am proud that Madison Marsh is representing her community, her State, and our Nation's armed forces with dignity and excellence. I wish her the best of luck during her reign as Miss America and continued success in her career of service with the U.S. Air Force.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3409. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act Medicare Secondary Payer Non-Group Health Plan Threshold Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3410. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 45W Commercial Clean Vehicles and Incremental Cost of 2024" (Notice 2024-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3411. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes for Medicare Advantage Organizations, Medicaid Managed Care Plans, State Medicaid Agencies, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Agencies and CHIP Managed Care Entities, Issuers of Qualified Health Plans on the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Eligible Clinicians, and Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program" (RIN0938-AU87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3412. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13936 with respect to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3413. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Participation by Religious Organizations in USAID Programs" (RIN0412-AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3414. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Various Administrative Changes and Clauses to the USAID Acquisition Regulation" (RIN0412-AA78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3415. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic" (RIN0412-AB09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3416. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agency for International Development Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR): Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels" (RIN0412-AA82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3417. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act" (RIN0412-AA89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3418. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards for Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3419. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age" (29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3420. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation" (RIN1212-AB45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: