

there, but that is the lion's share of what the Federal Government can do.

Of course, we occupy the most significant, prominent, dominant, and dangerous power within that because we are the lawmaking branch. We make the laws.

The executive branch enforces the laws we make, deferring to our policies and enforcing the policies that we enact.

The judicial branch, headed by the Supreme Court, interprets them—not just in the abstract but interprets them in a way so as to be able to resolve disputes properly brought before the jurisdiction of the courts—disputes over the meaning of Federal law.

So we have the most dangerous, prominent, dominant position. It makes sense that the Founding Fathers entrusted that role only to us because we happen to be the branch of government most accountable to the people at the most regular intervals. You can fire all 435 Members of the House every 2 years. You can fire one-third of the Members of this Body every 2 years. It is one of the reasons why you know the Founding Fathers considered the power that we wield the most dangerous, because they made us subject to the most frequent and regular and direct kinds of guarantees of accountability—that is, through elections.

So now we have somebody who has been impeached because a law that we passed that he was charged with enforcing and administering and implementing and executing—didn't do his job, although it falls on us to decide that.

We have myriad instances in which that violation of the law can't be adjudicated in court, such as this case we referred to earlier, the United States v. Texas, where a majority of the Supreme Court of the United States—I guess, by the way, a brilliant dissent by Justice Alito—concluded that the State of Texas didn't have standing to address violations of law, deviations from law by Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden administration.

So if not us, who? There are countless instances that the courts can't do it. The executive branch isn't going to check the executive branch. The buck stops with us. It is our job to do this, and today, we failed. We didn't just fail in the sense that we tried to do it and we didn't; the majority of us, unfortunately, tried not to, went out of our way to define our role as something that it is not, to define the law as saying something other than what it, in fact, says so that we can shirk our responsibilities once again. Shame on us. Shame on those Members of this body who voted to do that today.

I wonder what future generations will say about this. I wonder how many ways in which future generations will suffer from what we did today.

I hope they will take this as a lesson in what not to do and soon depart from this awful precedent because otherwise

this will lead to the shedding of tears and worse.

We are told that the Senate is apparently just too busy to conduct an impeachment trial, just as we are about to be told that the Senate is too busy to require the Federal Government to get a warrant before searching the private communications of the American people incidentally collected and stored in the FISA 702 databases. Too busy to do those things, but I think we are about to be told that it is not too busy to send even more money to Ukraine, where we have already sent \$113 billion—not too busy to do that; not too busy to expand FISA without adding a warrant requirement; but just way too busy, apparently, to do what the Senate and only the Senate can do and what under the Constitution we must do.

Like the ghost of Christmas future in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," I hope that as we examine our future and what today's action portends about the future of the United States and of the United States Senate, I hope we can choose to depart from this course. While I fear that our past will prove to be our prologue, I sure hope we won't solidify and more deeply entrench this unwise, indefensible move that we took today.

But I am glad we have had a chance today to set the record straight, to make an adequate record of what really happened, and that while a majority—a bare, slim majority—chose to excuse the inexcusable today, some of us—nearly half of us tried to stand in front of that train and stop it. I hope this will prove to be an aberration. Let's all pray that it does.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MIGRATORY BIRDS OF THE AMERICAS CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4389 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4389) to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4389) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

##### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ILLINOIS' 13 AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, May 1 will mark the beginning of Older Americans Month, a time to honor the many contributions our seniors make to our communities. In honor of Older Americans Month, I would like to congratulate Illinois' 13 area agencies on aging—AAAs—on 50 years of service to Illinois seniors.

As the saying goes: With age, comes wisdom. But living a long, full life also means facing life's many changes, challenges, and uncertainties. Let me take you back to 1965. Thanks to modern medicine and science, Americans were living longer than ever before. Every 20 seconds, an American was turning 65. But that progress exposed a lack of support for the needs of the older population. While more Americans were living longer, many were living their Golden Years in poverty, alone, and without the services and care they needed. They had nowhere else to turn.

At this same time, President Lyndon B. Johnson was pursuing an ambitious agenda of domestic policies aimed at eliminating poverty and racial injustice, his "Great Society." Recognizing our "nation's sense of responsibility toward the well-being of our older citizens," President Johnson signed the Older Americans Act—OAA—on July 14, 1965. This legislation paved the way for the creation of a nationwide network of area agencies on aging—AAA—that would support the health, social, and economic well-being of older people and their caregivers.

In accordance with the OAA, Illinois has 13 AAAs that offer services in all 102 counties in Illinois. For the past 50 years, they have served as a backbone of Illinois' senior services, helping develop aging services in local communities across Illinois. From addressing the health needs of older adults, to providing nutrition, transportation, legal assistance, benefit enrollment, and in-home services, Illinois' AAAs help older Americans thrive in their homes and communities. In 2023 alone, Illinois' AAAs served more than half a million adults over the age of 60.

Currently, around 18 percent of the U.S. population is 65 and older. And by 2054, that number is estimated to jump to 23 percent. So these services do not just benefit older Americans; they

strengthen our communities as a whole. For example, AAAs provide services for grandparents tasked with the precious task of caring for their grandchildren. And during the darkest days of the pandemic, AAAs rose to the occasion to deliver meals, vaccines, and programming that saved lives. These unsung heroes make sure that older adults have the medical support they need to prevent falls, manage chronic diseases, and remain as healthy as possible.

I have called on AAAs in Illinois as I crafted, and ultimately passed, legislation in 2020 to bolster family caregiver supports through the network of AAAs. My legislation increased funding for AAAs to deliver caregiver respite care, training, and counseling, and enabled AAAs to partner with Medicare and Medicaid to deliver meals, case management, and transportation, and receive reimbursements for this critical work.

Despite the fact that aging is an inevitable and natural part of life, it is often met with stigma or shame. But your efforts help ensure that birthdays remain cause for celebration, regardless of how many candles are on the cake.

My wife Loretta and I want to express our utmost appreciation for the work Illinois' 13 AAAs do in Illinois. Congratulations to Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging; AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois; Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Inc.; East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Inc.; West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland, Inc.; AgeSmart Community Resources; Midland Area Agency on Aging; Southeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Inc.; Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, Inc.; Chicago Department of Family and Support Services; and AgeOptions, Inc., on 50 years of service to older adults and caregivers.

Family is the most important thing we have, and every family in our State owes you a debt of gratitude for helping support the wisest members of our community.

#### MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I opposed Majority Leader SCHUMER's constitutional points of order because I have concerns about the precedents they set for future impeachments.

Once a majority of the House of Representatives votes to adopt Articles of Impeachment, the Senate should fulfill its constitutional role to "try all impeachments." Simply ending an impeachment proceeding without any consideration of the substance of the allegations—as the Senate Democratic majority did today—sets a terrible precedent that could be exploited in the future. Today, not only did the Senate fail to perform its constitutional duty, but it also set an additional precedent that something as se-

rious as a felony is not a high crime or misdemeanor under the Constitution. That is why I voted against both points of order. Let me make clear that my votes today do not reflect my views on the merits of this matter, which I would only consider after a presentation of the evidence at trial.

I believe the Senate will come to regret today's votes to shirk our constitutional responsibility and inappropriately short-circuit the constitutional process for considering Articles of Impeachment adopted by the House of Representatives.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LYNETTE WEST

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lynette West of Jonesboro on being named Arkansas' 2024 Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

As the owner of HealthWear Corporation, a boutique business that offers medical uniforms and accessories, West is an inspiring entrepreneur who has worked hard to attain success personally and professionally, including putting herself through college while raising two young children.

Her journey with HealthWear began in 2013 when she started working part-time at the specialty shop before it even opened its doors. She played a crucial role in getting the shop ready for its grand opening, working closely with vendors to ensure a successful launch. When HealthWear faced the possibility of closure in 2015, West stepped in and took over as the full-time owner, determined to turn things around.

Since acquiring the business, she has been actively involved in all aspects of its operations, including managing the team of five employees to ensure they provide excellent service to their customers. Her hands-on approach has helped create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in the store, attracting a loyal customer base.

Under her leadership, HealthWear has received recognition not only for its stellar reputation among clientele, but also for the quality of its products, including an award for best uniform from *Premiere Magazine* in northeast Arkansas. These accolades and West's pursuit of support and mentorship have helped her guide the business through challenges and opportunities alike.

Congratulations again to Lynette West and her entire team, as this distinction is a result of their outstanding efforts. Her passion for her business, her community, and her family shines through in everything she does. We are proud to celebrate the hard work and success that has made HealthWear such an integral part of the economic and medical care needs in the region.●

##### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNS OF HOPE

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the anniversary of a critical victim service provider in southern Nevada, Signs of HOPE. For 50 years, Signs of HOPE has provided essential resources and support to survivors of sexual exploitation and violence throughout the region.

In 1974, Signs of HOPE was founded in Las Vegas under the name of Community Action Against Rape by Florence McClure and Sandra Petta. Ms. McClure originally operated the non-profit out of her home with the goal of helping individuals impacted by sexual violence and trafficking to recover and heal. With this guiding purpose, Signs of HOPE has remained committed to ending sexual violence in the Las Vegas Valley for the last five decades.

Signs of HOPE provides survivors and their loved ones with long-term advocates who assist them in managing and navigating every step of their recovery. The advocates also support victims with holistic, professional counseling resources.

The organization also has made strides to eradicate human trafficking with their Resources and Integration for Survivor Empowerment—R.I.S.E.—program. The R.I.S.E. program delivers crucial victim-centered services including assistance obtaining medical care, counseling, court accompaniment, relocation and safety planning, job training, coordination with law enforcement and legal assistance, and much more.

Outside of their victim services, Signs of HOPE offers training and awareness programs to educate and empower the community to end sexual violence. Their work focuses on changing the behaviors and stigmas associated with sexual violence and trafficking throughout Clark County.

Recently, under the leadership of CEO Kimberly Small, Signs of HOPE has partnered with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to assist victims when Las Vegas hosted the Super Bowl and the Formula 1 Grand Prix. With their 24/7 crisis hotlines and the R.I.S.E. program, Signs of HOPE identified human trafficking victims and is continuing to provide them with intensive services.

The staff, volunteers, and partners of Signs of HOPE have worked tirelessly to serve southern Nevada. Without their dedication, many survivors would go unheard and unaided. I am proud of the work that Signs of HOPE has done for the past 50 years, and I look forward to their continued efforts and service for generations to come/survivors.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: