

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be determined from approved vendors. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

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

RECOGNIZING MILITARY RECOVERY RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HELENE

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, today I recognize National Guard and Active-Duty troops who came to the aid of North Carolinians following the terrible devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

I want to particularly thank the North Carolina National Guard for their leadership, as well as their brothers and sisters in arms from 18 States who answered the call to provide lifesaving aid when our State was in need. This includes guardsmen from Georgia, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Florida, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, New York, Minnesota, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Alabama. I would also like to thank the Active-Duty servicemembers from the XVIII Airborne Corps at Ft. Liberty, the 82nd Airborne Division, and those from Ft. Campbell's 101st Airborne Division who supported the Guard and communities across western North Carolina in both rescue and recovery operations.

To all those who came to western North Carolina's aid, you have my sincere thanks for your service and sacrifice. On behalf of the Senate, I thank you for your bravery and continued service.

REMEMBERING DONALD H. TURNER, JR.

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, Donald H. Turner, Jr., epitomized public service.

Don grew up in Milton, VT, a town of less than 11,000 people. When he was a boy, it had half that number. Don's family owned the local bowling alley and a construction company. His family's outsized presence in the town may be why he saw the entire community as family.

Don signed up as a volunteer firefighter at 16 and remained involved with the department for his entire life, serving 14 years as chief. On my last visit to Milton in March 2023, we discussed the challenges facing small fire departments and rescue squads, input that directly influenced legislation I introduced to reimburse emergency medical services providers for care they provide patients who are not transported to a hospital.

For the past 7 years, Don served as town manager in his hometown. If the

rescue squad was short a person to respond to a call, he would leave his office and hop in the ambulance.

Prior to serving in town government, Don represented his community in the Vermont House of Representatives for 13 years, including 8 as the minority leader. Perhaps that is why when he assumed leadership of his hometown government, he made his and the town staff's motto, "Get stuff done."

And he did.

A new town garage, something in the works before the birth of the town's current selectboard chair, was wrapped up in 2 years under Don's leadership. It is now named for him, with "Getting stuff done" written in large letters along one wall.

He also kept up the pressure on a transformative road project for the town, working through multiple issues to get the project underway in the past year.

Infrastructure is the most basic part of a town manager's job. Don went beyond that. A lifelong Republican, he led efforts in the town to examine its practices and policies with an eye toward making sure they were fair and allowed everyone to participate. This led to changes in the town's recreation department, where Don wanted to remove barriers to participation, including income or disabilities that might previously have kept children and adults on the sidelines. He championed an annual inclusion festival, in which he was an eager and proud participant.

In 2019, the Milton Public Library hosted a drag queen story time. When the event drew backlash, Don defended the library, attended the event, and had his photo taken with the drag queens.

When the tree topper was damaged ahead of the annual holiday tree lighting, Don made a new one in his garage.

No business in town was too small to receive Don's support. If there was a ribbon to be cut or a grand opening that needed attendees, he was there, regardless of the day or time.

When the high school needed someone to transport supplies for an event, Don pulled up in his truck.

His dedication to his town earned him the nickname "Mr. Milton."

Don believed that, "If you look after people, they will look after you." He lived that belief, setting an example, not only for his community, but for all of us who are committed to public service.

He passed away on Saturday, November 30, after a brief battle with cancer. Don was 60 years old.

Margaret and I extend our condolences to his wife Gail and his daughters Emily, Hillary, and Erin, as well as their families and loved ones. And I also give comfort to the Milton community, who lost a neighbor, friend, and important member of their community.

Donald H. Turner, Jr., will be missed by many in Vermont.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD JOHNSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Harold Johnson of Walnut Ridge for his decades of service to memorialize and champion Arkansas' legacy in aviation history.

Johnson was born in Saline County where he fostered an interest in aviation from a young age. This passion led him to become a pilot and flight instructor and, later, a commercial pilot for 18 years.

His experience in the skies was perhaps most notable for a harrowing encounter while serving as a copilot during the hijacking of Southern Airways Flight 49 on November 10, 1972. During this ordeal that lasted over 30 hours and spanned the U.S., Canada, and Cuba, Harold was able to ensure all passengers landed safely, despite having been shot in the arm.

After his retirement from commercial flight, Johnson channeled his continued love for aviation into the creation of an aviation shrine in Walnut Ridge, AR, which will celebrate its 26th anniversary on March 2, 2025.

As president and founder of the Wings of Honor Museum, he began a new mission to preserve the stories of Arkansas veterans through reflection and education by repurposing the Walnut Ridge Army Flying school and surrounding historical buildings.

The museum's growth and success are a direct result of Johnson's efforts and desire to inspire members of his community and far beyond. Wings of Honor is home to hundreds of aviation cadet class books, airfield records, aerial navigation charts, and the biographies of over 21,000 Arkansans who served in WWII. Beyond the numerous artifacts, aircraft, and unique visual displays, it is his tangible love of learning and keeping history alive that will continue to leave an impression on guests and visitors.

From his days as a pilot to his natural role as a community leader and teacher, Johnson's dedication and impact have been celebrated widely. He was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Historical Society Hall of Fame in 2017 and was named the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce 2024 Man of the Year.

I thank him for his years of stewardship that generated such tremendous success for the Wings of Honor Museum and the Walnut Ridge community and wish him all the best with continuing to prepare a new generation of leadership to carry on that important legacy. •

TRIBUTE TO GERALD JOHNSON

• Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor an accomplished and highly regarded leader in Michigan's automotive industry, Mr. Gerald Johnson, executive vice president of

global manufacturing and sustainability for General Motors. Gerald has made an immeasurable impact on General Motors and the metro-Detroit community over the past 44 years, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today and celebrate his upcoming retirement.

Gerald began his career with General Motors in 1980, working as a group leader at the Fisher Body Plant in Euclid, OH. This began his decades long career with General Motors that includes a number of leadership roles, professional achievements, and a legacy of excellence that will stand for years to come.

While serving as vice president of operational excellence, Gerald and his team placed an emphasis on improvement and efficiency, including innovations in process discipline and waste elimination. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, Gerald used his extensive experience and knowledge in the manufacturing space to lead a team that produced critical medical supplies, such as ventilators and facemasks, for frontline medical workers, while implementing highly successful return-to-work safety protocols across the company. Beyond his work during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gerald also served as vice president of General Motors North American manufacturing and relations, bringing his expertise and insight to a wide swath of the company's operations. In his final role with General Motors, Gerald served as the executive vice president of GM's global manufacturing, manufacturing engineering, labor relations, and sustainability organizations, which included directing the work of more than 94,800 employees located across 4 continents and 13 countries.

Throughout the many positions and leadership roles Gerald has occupied across his career, what has remained consistent is his commitment to fostering positive change within General Motors and across the metro-Detroit area. This is evidenced by Gerald's work as a founding member of the GM inclusion advisory board. As well, as an alumnus of Kettering University in Flint, MI, Gerald serves on the university's board of trustees and continues to mentor young professionals starting out in their careers, along with serving on the National Board of Directors for the United Negro College Fund, UNCF. Named the 2021 Black Engineer of the Year by the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) selection committee and presented during the BEYA STEM Conference. Additionally, the Michigan Chronicle has recognized Gerald among the Most Powerful African Americans in Southeast Michigan with several awards over the years. Most recently, in 2024, he was named to the Chronicle's Power 50 list. He has inspired hundreds of men and women to pursue and maintain careers in manufacturing and the automotive industry for more than four decades. Protégés speak of his ability to help them develop their

critical thinking skills and navigate daily decisions. Through these constant efforts, Gerald has undoubtedly made an indelible mark on General Motors's global workforce, while helping to lead efforts across the automotive industry to encourage more young professionals from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in manufacturing, engineering, design, and beyond.

His passion for helping others enrich their lives is apparent in every aspect of Gerald's life. In 2018, Gerald and his wife Darlynn started the Gathering Church in Farmington Hills, MI. Along with helping families, the Gathering Church supports teens at the Detroit Covenant House, helps men at Mariner's Inn homeless shelter in Detroit, and inner-city children at the Detroit Leadership Academy.

Gerald has also been an ordained elder in the Detroit World Outreach Christian Center Church in Redford, MI, where he led the men's ministry known as Men of Valor. At 700 men strong, the ministry is focused on mentoring, teaching, and outreach to those in need.

I cannot understate the impact that Gerald Johnson has made on General Motors and, by extension, on the metro-Detroit community. His hard work and dedication over these many years steadfastly promoted positive change and created a culture at General Motors that continues to attract an immensely talented and diverse workforce. Though Gerald's leadership at General Motors will be missed, his legacy will most certainly endure and continue to inspire.●

TRIBUTE TO PAM RUBINOFF

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to honor my constituent Pam Rubinoff. Pam is the coastal resilience lead for the Rhode Island Sea Grant and the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center. She has spent three decades engaging with coastal communities, helping them implement science-informed coastal management and shoreline protection measures. Pam started her career working with coastal communities in Latin America and Africa but has focused her outreach in Rhode Island for the past 10 years. She has helped coastal communities address a range of challenges, including flooding and rising sea levels caused by climate change.

Pam's steadfast commitment to coastal communities in Rhode Island and beyond will have a lasting effect and protect people and communities from flooding and erosion. Pam worked with the city of Providence to pilot a near-real-time storm forecasting and infrastructure impact assessment tool, which has helped prioritize public emergency personnel response to flooded urban neighborhoods. With Pam's help, the Providence Resilience Partnership catalyzed \$2.3 million in Fed-

eral funding for a range of projects, including a climate risk assessment of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier, the neighborhood's main line of defense against major storms. She created the first-ever Military Installation Resilience Review plan for Naval Station Newport, a U.S. Navy property located in a flood zone that is at growing risk for coastal inundation. Pam has also advanced scientific and community engagement through solutions like MyCoastRI, an app-based tool to gather and analyze photos of flooding and storm impacts.

In addition to her scientific work, Pam is great mentor for the next generation of coastal management professionals. Countless undergraduate and graduate students who Pam mentored are now local partners in emergency management, sustainability, and other professions where they put climate science to use. Her ability to clearly communicate the need for shoreline protection makes her highly sought after by government advisory committees, industry groups, community organizations, and the media. I applaud Pam's work and thank her on behalf of all the Ocean State.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:24 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 bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 3791. An act to reauthorize the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3960. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide a good faith exception to the imposition of fines for false assertions and certifications, 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. 5103. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6395. An act to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials.

H.R. 6826. An act to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center.

H.R. 6843. An act to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

H.R. 7177. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to consolidate certain divisions in the Northern District of Alabama.

H.R. 7316. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to correct related technical errors.