

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, this resolution would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Mr. Schwager, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 937) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of December 16, 2024) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO DABNEY HEGG

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dabney Hegg, who retired from the Senate earlier this year after serving for more than 25 years, the last 14 of which were on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Through her time in the Senate, Dabney left her fingerprints on so much of the crucial legislation to strengthen our Nation's transportation infrastructure and help Americans keep a roof over their heads.

Dabney first joined the Senate Appropriations Committee in 2010 under Chair Inouye, on the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. I had the great fortune of seeing her work up close for several years, first as the then chair of T-HUD, and the past 2 years as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In 2015, Dabney was named clerk of the subcommittee. She served as clerk under Senators REED and SCHATZ, and we all can attest that she was an invaluable member of the team.

At a time when our Nation is grappling with an affordable housing shortage, aging infrastructure, and growing pressures from climate change, the investments we make in housing, transportation, and more have huge implications for our Nation's future. Dabney worked tirelessly to help the Senate make critical investments to address homelessness and the housing crunch, ensure communities have reliable roads, rails, and bridges, keep planes flying safely overhead, and maintain the infrastructure we need to stay strong and keep people safe.

Among her many accomplishments, Dabney helped negotiate the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in 2021, multiple COVID relief and disaster recovery bills, and every single T-HUD appropriations bill since fiscal year 2011. She was a champion of improving everyday Americans' lives by fighting for Amtrak funding and improving rail safety, championing the

needs of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy so it can educate the next generation of mariners safely, always pushing to help individuals experiencing homelessness and survivors of domestic violence, and supporting our long-term disaster recovery efforts. For Dabney, the annual appropriations bill was an opportunity to do something good, move the ball forward inch by inch and year by year. In her last appropriations bill for FY 2024, under the direction of Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, who is chair of both T-HUD and Indian Affairs, Dabney helped to successfully secure a record \$1.3 billion for Native American and Alaskan Native housing programs, a 32-percent increase from the previous year.

Throughout her years on the subcommittee, she was a tireless champion for public transit, supporting and shepherding projects along in every corner of the country, including many critical transit projects in Washington State. The progress we made on those issues is part of an incredible legacy she has written into our Nation's laws through her work.

We all owe Dabney a debt of gratitude for working through many long nights and weekends and completing many hard negotiations in service of our Nation. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, I depended on Dabney's wisdom and counsel, and it is clear to all that her expertise, dedication, and ability to work across the aisle to make progress have made our country stronger. She is deeply missed.

On behalf of all the past committee leadership—and all the Senators and staff—who have worked with Dabney over the years and who know firsthand just how impactful her work and counsel have been, I would like to thank you, Dabney, for your service. You are missed, and we wish you all the best for what lies ahead. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN MURRAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Ellen Murray, who retired earlier this year after serving many, many years on the Senate Appropriations Committee across two different periods and who has left her fingerprints on so much of the crucial legislation to support our communities, help families grow and thrive, open doors of opportunity for students and workers, as well as strengthen our economy and the financial well-being of working people across the country, who are the backbone of our economy.

In 1999, Ellen Murray joined the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and became the clerk of the subcommittee in 2000. In 2017, Ellen returned to the committee, after serving in the administration of President Obama, and was named clerk of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee. Across the two subcommit-

tees, she served under Senators Harkin, COONS, and VAN HOLLEN, and we all can attest that she was an invaluable member of both teams.

Through global challenges and economic tumult—including a historic pandemic that posed a serious threat to our Nation's economy and to families' futures—Ellen was at the center of crucial work to secure critical investments that help our government and our economy keep running smoothly and help families stay healthy and safe. She has worked tirelessly to make sure we are meeting the needs of families on the ground and providing the resources our government needs to do the work for the American people, protect consumers and workers, enforce laws, advance lifesaving medical research, and keep our economy and our communities secure, growing and thriving—and make life a little easier for families to look after their kids, look after their health, and make ends meet.

Among her many accomplishments, Ellen helped negotiate countless appropriations bills, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the CARES Act, and was a fierce advocate for good government. The progress we made on these issues is part of an incredible legacy she has written into our Nation's health, education, labor, and financial laws through her work. Ellen cared deeply about her work and the people around her. She advocated for her issues, but perhaps most importantly, she advocated for her team. She has left behind a legacy of mentorship and a community of appropriations staff who are that much better because of her influence.

We all owe Ellen a debt of gratitude for working through many long nights and weekends and for completing many hard negotiations in service of our Nation. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, I depended on Ellen's wisdom and counsel, and it is clear to all that her expertise, dedication, and ability to work across the aisle to make progress have made our country stronger. She will be deeply missed.

On behalf of all the past committee leadership—and all the Senators and staff—who have worked with Ellen over the years and who know firsthand just how impactful her counsel has been, I would like to thank you, Ellen, for your service. You are missed, and we wish you all the best for what lies ahead. Thank you.

REMEMBERING BOB GABLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on November 29, 2024, the Commonwealth of Kentucky lost a towering figure in my home State's Republican Party with the passing of my dear friend Bob Gable. Today, it is my privilege to honor his extraordinary life and legacy.

A proud member of our Greatest Generation, Bob served his country as an officer in the Navy shortly after earning a degree from Stanford in industrial engineering. Bob had a deep sense

of patriotism and an instinct to lead early in life. Soon after his service, he and his beloved wife Emily settled in Stearns, KY, where Bob joined the family business, the Stearns Lumber and Coal Company. Known as the "last company town" in the Commonwealth, the business supported thousands in Kentucky's coal country and was an anchor of the region.

Bob's interest in politics began during these early years, working on the first Senate campaign of former U.S. Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker. Under Baker's wing, Bob made his political bones and discovered what would become a lifelong passion: serving the people and advancing conservative values. Eventually, Bob and Emily moved to Frankfort, where he served as an appointee of Kentucky Governor Louie Nunn, the Commonwealth's only Republican Governor for over half a century.

Though Republicans in the Commonwealth faced steep odds, Bob stepped up to lead, launching spirited bids for Senate in 1972 and for Governor in 1975. Never one to take himself too seriously, he became an early sensation on his first campaign for Governor with his now infamous truth bell, which he rang each time his opponent told a lie. Bob lost his bid for Governor, but his candidacy brought energy and dynamism Republicans in the Commonwealth desperately needed. Most of all, he was an optimistic champion of Republican values when the polls, voter rolls, and election results gave Republicans every reason to feel otherwise.

In 1986, Bob became the chair of the Republican Party of Kentucky, inheriting a party that held only one statewide seat and reportedly had only \$300 in the bank. As chairman, he planted seeds wherever and whenever, convincing budding Republicans across the State to get involved in races at every level. Slowly, brick by brick, his quiet, diligent work transformed our party from a super minority to a competitive minority to a majority. Bob would also serve our party on the Republican National Committee, where he became the longest serving State chairman of any State in the country.

Needless to say, much in our party and the Commonwealth has changed since Bob's entrance onto Kentucky's political scene, largely thanks to his unflappable focus and the groundwork Bob laid during his decades of service. While we remember Bob's trailblazing runs for higher office fondly, his true legacy lies in his relentless commitment to building our party and advancing the Republican cause in Kentucky. Whether it was a local race for county judge-executive or a statewide bid for U.S. Senate, Bob cast a wide net when it came to supporting his fellow Republicans. For so many distinguished leaders in Kentucky, Bob was the first call in a budding career, the early endorsement on a new campaign, or the quiet, steady voice encouraging them to run and serve.

For Bob, politics was truly a labor of love, but none of this work would have been possible without Bob's greatest love, his family. We owe Bob's late wife Emily and their three children James, Elizabeth, and John our gratitude for the time Bob gave to serving others. Anyone who was lucky enough to know Bob could see the immense pride he had in his family, his faith, and his country. On behalf of the Senate, I send sincere condolences to Bob's many friends and loved ones. We are grateful they shared him with us for so many years. Kentucky was made better as a result.

Mr. President, the "Kentucky Lantern" recently published an article on Bob's life and service. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

BOB GABLE, A STANFORD-EDUCATED PATRON OF THE ARTS AND NAVY VETERAN, NEVER WON ELECTIVE OFFICE BUT HELPED LEAD THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF KENTUCKY OUT OF THE POLITICAL WILDERNESS

Gable, 90, died Nov. 29 at Baptist Health in Lexington.

A rare Republican supporter of abortion rights, Gable is being praised by Republicans, including U.S. Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell who called him a "titanic figure."

In a statement, McConnell said Gable's "unflappable focus and the groundwork he laid during his decades of service" were critical to the emergence of a competitive state GOP and Kentucky's transformation into a Republican stronghold.

Former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, who served as Republican National Committee chair, said in a statement that Gable was "a leader and a driving force for the Republican Party in Kentucky and beyond. As state party chair, where I first knew him, he played a key role in advancing conservative principles and supporting the Reagan Revolution."

Gable, in his last of three runs for public office, teamed up in 1995 with an unlikely partner, the American Civil Liberties Union, to challenge a new (and short-lived) state law aimed at reducing money's influence on elections by publicly financing candidates for governor who agreed to abide by campaign spending limits. (The ACLU did not object to public financing but to other restrictions in the Kentucky law.)

Gable, who denounced public financing as "welfare for politicians," also said, "Money in politics is freedom of speech," presaging the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Citizens United ruling in 2010 which obliterated restrictions on political money that had been in place for a century.

Robert Elledy Gable was born in New York City and grew up in Port Orford, Oregon, and later Tucson, Arizona, after his father's death, spending summers with family in Michigan and Minnesota and being educated at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, according to his obituary.

After graduating from Stanford University in 1956 with a degree in industrial engineering and serving as a Navy officer, Gable and his wife, Emily Brinton Thompson, moved to Stearns in McCreary County, where he helped lead the family business.

Gable's great grandfather, Michigan lumber baron Justus S. Stearns, had founded the town as a company headquarters after buy-

ing 30,000 acres of forest in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1902 where coal was soon discovered. Stearns also was a prominent Republican in Michigan and a philanthropist. The Stearns Lumber & Coal Co. built the Kentucky and Tennessee Railroad and the first all-electric sawmill in the U.S. while employing thousands of people living in 18 coal camps. It eventually amassed 215,000 acres.

In Stearns, Bob and Emily Gable raised their three children, and in 1964 Gable dipped his toe into politics in Tennessee. He ran logistics and the campaign headquarters for Republican Howard Baker's losing race for U.S. Senate. Two years later, he worked in the campaign that made Baker the first Republican since Reconstruction to win a U.S. Senate seat from Tennessee.

In a 1995 interview with Joe Gerth of The Courier-Journal, Baker recalled the 30-year-old Gable as "overeducated and underchallenged" in his job at Stearns. "He was a bright young man. Politicians have a way of keeping an eye out for bright young men and women," said Baker.

In 1967, Gable worked in the winning gubernatorial campaign of Kentucky Republican Louie B. Nunn, who made Gable his state parks commissioner; the Gables moved to Frankfort.

Eight years later, Gable was the underdog Republican nominee for governor against Democratic incumbent Julian Carroll, who had been lieutenant governor when Democratic Gov. Wendell Ford was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Gable, who had run for U.S. Senate in 1972, criticized Carroll for not opposing busing to integrate Louisville's schools and blamed Democrats for then-high inflation.

In the first-ever KET gubernatorial debate, Gable secured a lasting place in Kentucky political lore by bringing a bell—he called it the "truth bell"—on stage that he promised to ring every time Carroll lied. The debate rules prohibited props, and after the second clanging, moderator Al Smith said the debate would end unless Gable pocketed the bell, which he did.

Earlier in 1975 in a column published in his weekly newspapers, Smith wrote that Gable "grew up in an affluent family, but he is a serious-minded and hard-working young man who acts as if he feels compelled to devote part of his talents and fortune to public stewardship. . . . He is bright and articulate in advancing a fundamentally conservative viewpoint about government and business."

In 1986, Gable became chairman of the Republican Party of Kentucky (RPK) and served on the Republican National Committee, positions he held for seven years.

"When Bob first took the helm of our state party in 1986, the electoral challenges Republicans faced in Kentucky were daunting," said RPK chair Robert Benvenuti in a statement. "At that time, Republicans held only one statewide office and were in the extreme minority in the General Assembly. Yet Bob's unwavering commitment to our party guided us as we began laying the groundwork to reshape Kentucky's political landscape."

Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers praised Gable as "a leader when there were few Kentucky Republicans" and said "Bob gave me my first contribution when I decided to get into politics."

By then The Stearns Co., as it had been renamed, had moved out of coal and timber and into real estate development, selling its last coal mine in 1975 when coal prices were high. The economic challenges of the 1980s led to the company's eventual restructuring, says the obituary.

Part of Stearns' vast holdings had become the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, thanks to efforts in Congress by Tennessee's Baker and Sen. John

Sherman Cooper of Kentucky. Stearns was paid \$18 million for 60,000 acres which it sold to the federal government under threat of condemnation.

Gable also waged a long-running but ultimately unsuccessful legal battle against state and federal governments challenging restrictions on mining and logging and seeking compensation for mineral rights that the company had owned inside federal lands.

In his quixotic run for governor in 1995, he lost in the primary to the eventual Republican nominee Larry Forgy, who, unlike Gable, supported public financing and spending limits. Democrat Paul Patton won the general election and was reelected with token Republican opposition. Before the 2003 race for governor, the legislature ended public financing and spending limits.

Gable served on the boards of many businesses and organizations. He also chaired the Kentucky Arts Council and Kentucky Opera and served on the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts board. He served as the final board chair of George Peabody College for Teachers and oversaw its merger with Vanderbilt University, where he later served as a trustee. Nationally, he was president of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and a member of the President's Committee for the Performing Arts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Gable and his wife Emily, who died in 2017, were avid travelers during their 58-year marriage. A member of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Frankfort, Gable also served on the Missions Board of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky.

He is survived by his children, James (Lisa Guillermin), Elizabeth Gable Hicks and John (Virginia Harris), as well as grandchildren Helen-Anne and Robert "Bo" Gable.

In 2017, Kentucky Republicans gathered to honor Gable at a tribute sponsored by the Republican Women's Club of Franklin County. Writing about the event in *The Courier-Journal*, political strategist and GOP commentator Scott Jennings reported that Gable brought the truth bell.

ANGOLA

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remarks delivered by President Biden on December 3, 2024, during his historic trip to Angola honoring the past and future of the Angolan-U.S. relationship, be printed in the RECORD.

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

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BIDEN HONORING THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THE ANGOLAN-U.S. RELATIONSHIP

Mr. PRESIDENT. You are a brave crowd to come out in the rain. I brought my hat just in case. I don't have much hair to help me.

Leaders of Angola, government and civil society, students, young leaders, staff of the National Slavery Museum, distinguished guests, I sincerely mean this when I say thank you for being here in the rain with us today. Thank you for allowing me to be here. It's an honor—a genuine honor to be with you today in Angola.

I just got off the phone with the vice president, telling her I'm sorry she's not with me to be here today, you know, with you in Angola, the—a vibrant city. And—and I—look, not the

city. The city, I know, is not Angola, but in Angola in a vibrant city.

And I'm joined by members of the United States Congress, senior officials of my administration, and American business and civic leaders. We think that it's important that we get together. We thank all people of Angola for your warm hospitality, and I mean that s—please sit down if you have a seat. Don't—I'm sorry. I wasn't sure you all had seats.

We are gathered at a someln—a solemn location. Because to fully consider how far our two countries have come in our friendship, we have to remember how we began.

We hear them in the wind and the waves. Young women, young men born free in the highlands of Angola, only to be captured, bound, and forced on a "death march" along this very coast to this spot by slave traders in the year 1619.

In the building next to us, they were baptized into a foreign faith against their will, their names changed against their will to Anthony and Isabella. Then they were condemned to a slave ship bound for the Middle Passage, packed together in hundreds by hundreds. A third of those souls did not survive the journey. One third died on the way.

But Anthony and Isabella made it to the British colony in Virginia, where they were sold into servitude and became two of the first enslaved Americans in a place that, 150 years later, would become the United States of America. They had a son, considered the first child of African descent born in America: William Tucker.

It was the beginning of slavery in the United States. Cruel. Brutal. Dehumanizing. Our nation's original sin—original sin—one that haunted America and casts a long shadow ever since.

From the bloody Civil War that nearly tore my nation apart to the long battle with Jim Crow in the ni—to—into the 1960s for the civil rights and voting rights movement—which got me involved in public life—during which American cities were burned, to the still unfinished reckoning with racial injustice in my country today.

Historians believe people of Angola accounted for a significant number of all enslaved people shipped to America. Today, millions of African Americans have roots in Angola.

As I said at the U.S.-African Leaders Summit that held in Washington two years—I held in Washington two years ago, "Our people lie at the heart of the deep and profound connection that forever binds Africa and the United States together. We remember the stolen men and women and children who were brought to our shores in chains, subjected to unimaginable cruelty."

Here with us today are three Americans who are direct descendants of Anthony and Isabella, those first enslaved Americans—Afri—Africans in America. Wanda Tucker of Hamilton [Hamp-ton], Virginia. Wanda, are you there?

There you are, Wanda. God love you. Her brother Vincent and Carolita as well. Thank you for being here. We're going to write history, not erase history.

The Tuckers learned their family history around the dinner table. That history led Wanda here in Angola a few years ago. She did not know how to speak the language, but that didn't matter. When she arrived, Wanda said she felt something profound, like she'd come home. That was her comment to me. She called it the "connection without words."

Ladies and gentlemen, I am here today to honor that connection between our people and to pay tribute to the generations of Angolans and American families, like the Tuckers, who have served in government for over—I've served in government for over 50 years. I know I only look like I'm 40 years old, but I've been around hanging in the government for—I hate to admit it—or 50 years.

But in that 50 years, I've learned a lot. Perhaps most importantly, I have learned that while history can be hidden, it cannot and should not be erased. It should be faced. It's our duty to face our history: the good, the bad, and the ugly—the whole truth. That's what great nations do.

That's why I chose to speak here at the National Slavery Museum today, just as I toured. And that's why your president visited the National Museum of African American Culture in the—in Washington, D.C.—the second most-visited museum in the States—and he did it a few years ago.

He saw what I see: the stark contradiction between my country's founding principles of liberty, justice, and equality and the way we long treated people from Angola and from throughout Africa.

I've often said America is the only nation in the world founded on an idea. Most countries are founded based on race, ethnicity, religion, geography, or some other attribute. But in the United States, founded on idea, one embedded in our Declaration of Independence, and that is that all men and women are created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout their lives.

It's abundantly clear today we have not lived up to that idea, but we've never fully walked away from it either. And that's due in no small part to the determination and dreams of African Americans, including Angolan Americans.

The proud descendants of the diaspora who helped build my nation as they rebuilt their own families and their own sense of self. They were the forebearers as well—resilient, faithful, even hopeful—hopeful that joy would cometh in the morning, as it says in the Bible; hopeful that our past would not be the story of our future; and hopeful, in time, the United States would write a different story in partnership with the people brought here in