

RULE 5.—VOTING

[a] Vote to report a measure or matter.—No measure or matter shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. The vote of the Committee to report a measure or matter shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members of the Committee who are present.

Any absent member may affirmatively request that his or her vote to report a matter be cast by proxy. The proxy shall be sufficiently clear to identify the subject matter, and to inform the Committee as to how the member wishes his vote to be recorded thereon. By written notice to the Chairman any time before the record vote on the measure or matter concerned is taken, any member may withdraw a proxy previously given. All proxies shall be kept in the files of the Committee, along with the record of the rollcall vote of the members present and voting, as an official record of the vote on the measure or matter.

[b] Vote on matters other than to report a measure or matter. On Committee matters other than a vote to report a measure or matter, no record vote shall be taken unless a majority of the Committee are actually present. On any such other matter, a member of the Committee may request that his or her vote may be cast by proxy. The proxy shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently clear to identify the subject matter, and to inform the Committee as to how the member wishes his or her vote to be recorded thereon. By written notice to the Chairman any time before the vote on such other matter is taken, the member may withdraw a proxy previously given. All proxies relating to such other matters shall be kept in the files of the Committee.

RULE 6.—QUORUM

No executive session of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be called to order unless a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee, as the case may be, are actually present. Unless the Committee otherwise provides or is required by the Rules of the Senate, one member shall constitute a quorum for the receipt of evidence, the swearing in of witnesses, and the taking of testimony.

RULE 7.—STAFF PRESENT ON DAIS

Only members and the Clerk of the Committee shall be permitted on the dais during public or executive hearings, except that a member may have one staff person accompany him or her during such public or executive hearing on the dais. If a member desires a second staff person to accompany him or her on the dais he or she must make a request to the Chairman for that purpose.

RULE 8.—COINAGE LEGISLATION

At least 67 Senators must cosponsor any gold medal or commemorative coin bill or resolution before consideration by the Committee.

EXTRACTS FROM THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Rule XXV, *Standing Committees*

1. The following standing committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each Congress, and shall continue and have the power to act until their successors are appointed, with leave to report by bill or otherwise on matters within their respective jurisdictions:

* * * * *

[d][1] Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Banks, banking, and financial institutions.

2. Control of prices of commodities, rents, and services.

3. Deposit insurance.

4. Economic stabilization and defense production.

5. Export and foreign trade promotion.

6. Export controls.

7. Federal monetary policy, including Federal Reserve System.

8. Financial aid to commerce and industry.

9. Issuance and redemption of notes.

10. Money and credit, including currency and coinage.

11. Nursing home construction.

12. Public and private housing [including veterans' housing].

13. Renegotiation of Government contracts.

14. Urban development and urban mass transit.

[2] Such committee shall also study and review, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to international economic policy as it affects United States monetary affairs, credit, and financial institutions; economic growth, urban affairs, and credit, and report thereon from time to time.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

Procedures formally adopted by the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, February 11, 2021, establish a uniform questionnaire for all Presidential nominees whose confirmation hearings come before this Committee.

In addition, the procedures establish that:

[1] A confirmation hearing shall normally be held at least 5 days after receipt of the completed questionnaire by the Committee unless waived by a majority vote of the Committee.

[2] The Committee shall vote on the confirmation not less than 24 hours after the Committee has received transcripts of the hearing unless waived by unanimous consent.

[3] All nominees routinely shall testify under oath at their confirmation hearings.

This questionnaire shall be made a part of the public record except for financial and other personal information, which shall be kept confidential as indicated on the questionnaire.

Nominees are requested to answer all questions, and to add additional pages where necessary.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARY FRANCES EARLY LECTURE SERIES AND THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARY FRANCIS EARLY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Ms. Mary Frances Early for the 25th anniversary of the Mary Frances Early lecture series at the University of Georgia and the 5th anniversary of the naming of the University of Georgia's College of Education in her honor.

Hailing from Atlanta, GA, where she was born and raised, Mary Frances Early played an invaluable role in supporting music education in Georgia and the desegregation of Georgia universities. After earning a bachelor's degree in music education from Clark College—now Clark Atlanta University—in 1957, Ms. Early began her career with Atlanta Public Schools as a music teacher. While teaching, she worked to expand access to music edu-

cation for all students. In 1961, Ms. Early enrolled at the University of Georgia, helping to desegregate the graduate school. In 1962, Mary Frances Early made history when she became the first African-American to graduate from the University of Georgia, earning her master's degree in music education.

As her career continued, Mary Frances Early became the first Black president of the Georgia Music Educators Association, where she traveled the State to support music organizations and advocate for music education. After dedicating 37 years to public music education, she later taught at Morehouse College and Spelman College and served as head of the music department at Clark Atlanta University.

Ms. Early was also instrumental in creating the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program, a first of its kind program designed to identify, mentor, and develop middle and high school Atlanta musicians from underrepresented groups for careers as professional classical musicians.

In addition to these many accomplishments, the University of Georgia has honored Ms. Early's legacy by awarding her with the President's Medal in 2018, an endowed professorship, and two scholarships.

On the 25th anniversary of the Mary Frances Early lecture series at the University of Georgia and the 5th anniversary of the naming of the University of Georgia's College of Education in her honor, I would like to thank Ms. Mary Frances Early for her tremendous contributions to music education and her lasting impact as a trailblazer for civil rights, inspiring generations of students, schools, and communities across our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 40-year anniversary of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. "The Gathering" is a weeklong coming-together of people rooted in the poetry, music, and arts of cowboy country that takes place every year in the high-desert cowboy town of Elko, NV. The week of January 27 to February 1, 2025, marks the 40th anniversary of this celebration.

Cowboys are often seen as a symbol of the American West. Though popular media has influenced the perception of this symbol as a grizzled figure on the range, cowboys represent the modern resilience of the West. They continue to adapt to their current circumstances, and since the 19th century, cowboy poetry has played an important role in sharing, remembering, and expressing the social, environmental, and political changes the West has experienced.

The Gathering was first produced in 1985 by a small group of folklorists and poets, and after 40 years, it has grown into a national and international weeklong celebration of the cultural expression of the rangeland West. Cowboy poetry is one of the most popular forms of occupational poetry, and in 2000, Congress designated this event as the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Today, the Gathering brings together thousands of people, ranging from cowboys and saddlemakers to insurance salespersons and plumbers, all of whom share a mutual admiration, respect, and dedication to what the West was, is, and will be. The celebration features more than 40 artists and dozens of events to forge connections and grow knowledge through food, gear, film, discussions, dance, music, verse, and more.

The Gathering is held every year in Elko, which is the largest town in northeastern Nevada and abuts the scenic Ruby Mountains. Elko was founded in 1869 with the Transcontinental Railroad and has a storied tradition of ranching and mining. As the heart of northeast Nevada, Elko is a fitting place to honor the traditions of cowboy poetry.

The event takes place at venues throughout Elko, but the heart of the Gathering is at the Western Folklife Center, headquartered in the historic Pioneer Hotel. The Western Folklife Center was founded in 1980 and provides a platform for rural and urban communities to communicate and exchange new ideas and avenues of expression. They produced the first Cowboy Poetry Gathering in 1985, and it remains their signature event, with programming changing to reflect contemporary realities and issues of the American West.

As a representative of Nevada and the West, I know how important our rural communities are to our State's and country's economy and culture. The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering is so special because it brings together a broad community of different identities, all of whom are deeply connected to the Western life. Charles Greenhaw, a member of the steering committee of the first Gathering, wrote, "If the Gathering can be characterized in a word it's warmth. Why? Who knows. Maybe because when we aren't hemmed-in, we are all cowboys and poets."

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering's 40 years of celebrating, remembering, and passing down the creative richness of the West.●

RECOGNIZING THE 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM

●Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Nevada Northern Railway Museum. Following the

closure of the Nevada Northern Railway in 1983, a group of concerned citizens in Ely, NV, sought to acquire the railroad and open the former site as a tourist operation to offset the economic impact of losing the railway. It was through the power of passionate individuals and generous donations that the Nevada Northern Railway Museum was formed in conjunction with the city of Ely in 1984.

Previously owned by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company, the Nevada Northern Railway was constructed in 1905–06 to support the growing copper mining industry after massive copper deposits were discovered in White Pine County in the early 1900s. The railway then quickly became a necessity for transporting copper to processing and shipping sites and eventually out for market sale. Creating jobs and promoting growth of critical infrastructure, the Nevada Northern Railway played a significant role in the economic development of the State of Nevada at the time.

The decline of the copper mining industry ultimately led to the closure of the Nevada Northern Railway in 1983, leaving the citizens of Ely with a desire to find a new purpose for the historic buildings. It was then, thanks to local efforts, that the Kennecott Copper Company agreed to transfer the entire line, as well as the railroad's yard and shop facilities, to the White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation. Today, that organization is known as the Nevada Northern Railway Museum and operates as a family friendly tourist destination in the heart of this picturesque rural community. As a heritage railroad, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum offers an immersive experience filled with historical artifacts and the opportunity to experience Nevada's high deserts and some of the darkest skies in the lower 48 States. Visitors are able to experience passenger excursions pulled by historic steam and diesel locomotives, while listening to exhilarating tales about what life was like during the boom of the mining industry. Perhaps their most famous excursion is the Star Train experience, which allows visitors the opportunity to view the Great Basin night sky free of light pollution, using telescopes for stargazing. I have had the pleasure of joining Nevada Northern Railway for an evening of viewing the desert skies and can say from personal experience that it is a ride unlike any other.

With approval from the National Park Service and the support of my predecessor Senator Harry Reid, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum was able to officially designate the East Ely Yard as a National Historic Landmark in 2006. However, many came to know the Nevada Northern Railway Museum when a friendly stray named Dirt the Cat rose to viral fame as the "Boss Shop Cat," keeping watch over daily operations at the railway. Dirt attracted visitors from all over the world who hoped to meet the local ce-

lebrity, and he captured the hearts of many Nevadans in his time. His legacy lives on in a number of shop cats that now call the museum home. Largely considered the best-preserved short line rail in the country, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum has put forth tremendous efforts to preserve the history of Ely and provide family fun to visitors of all ages. It is my honor to recognize their 40th anniversary of official service to our State. As a true pillar of heritage, education, and cultural preservation, I wish them well in continuing their work for many years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 5. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

At 10:17 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 165. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. Schweikert of Arizona and Mr. Beyer of Virginia.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 5. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 165. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 23, 2025, she had