

very clear. Congress declares war. Once declared, the President is the Commander in Chief. There is no war without a declaration of Congress.

The President, as Commander in Chief, can defend the United States against imminent attack, but there was no such imminent threat posed by the Iranian nuclear program, as the President's own National Security Advisor testified to Congress shortly before this strike.

And as the Israeli Foreign Minister announced before the U.S. strike, that the Israeli actions had set the nuclear program back 2 or 3 years. No imminent attack on the United States, no imminent threat, that means Congress gets to declare war.

This is not about hatred for any President; it is about standing up and doing what we took an oath to do. My colleague from South Carolina says we have only declared war five times, ending with World War II. That is not accurate.

Congress has had the guts to at least vote on authorizing war up through 2002. But in 2002 something happened in this body; the Senate and the House got lied into a war with bogus intelligence about the weapons program of the nation of Iraq. We should be haunted by that. We should be haunted by that.

The claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction led us into a war where thousands of troops and thousands of U.S. contractors were killed. And so what should have been the learning that came out of that is that we should do a good job kicking the tires, as Congress, before we go into a war and not get lied into a war. Instead, what I fear, since there has been no willingness of Congress to vote on any war since 2002, is what Members of this body have decided is, Wow, we got it wrong. We were lied into a war. We voted in a way that we regretted so let's not vote at all. Let's not vote at all. Let's overturn the congressional and constitutional history that says we only go to war with Congress and try to hide in the grass.

Many of my colleagues have said things about Iran and how bad Iran is. None of them have ever introduced an authorization for war against Iran. If Iran is so bad, do that.

People in this body would rather not vote so they can't be held accountable. I get that. That is a human impulse. It is just a human impulse that so disrespects the service of our men and women in uniform. If we are going to send troops into harm's way, our sons and daughters, whether they are flying bombing missions or ground troops or covert operations, we ought to have the guts in this body to cast a vote saying that that war is necessary, not just act as cheerleaders and hide from culpability, hide from accountability, hide from responsibility.

If you vote against S.J. Res. 59, what you are saying is this President should be able to wage war without coming to

Congress. If you think the President should have to come to Congress, whether you are for or against the war in Iran, you will support S.J. Res. 59. You will support the Constitution that has stood the test of time. You will support your oath.

I urge a positive vote on the resolution.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 59.

Mr. KAINE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 328 Leg.]

#### YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Gallagher	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

#### NAYS—53

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeben	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young
Fetterman	Moody	

The motion was rejected.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 322, on the cloture motion—Motion to Invoke Cloture: Daniel

Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 323, on the nomination—Confirmation: Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 324, on the cloture motion—Motion to Invoke Cloture: Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 325, on the nomination—Confirmation: Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 326, on the cloture motion—Motion to Invoke Cloture: Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

#### S.J. RES. 59

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at President Trump's direction, U.S. forces struck certain nuclear facilities in Iran. As I stated this week in the Intelligence Committee: Those strikes having been taken, I certainly hope they were effective. Most of the Congress is united in our conviction that Iran must not build or acquire a nuclear weapon. An urgent unanswered question is whether the administration's use of force meaningfully advanced that longstanding foreign policy objective. Members of Congress are seeking further information from the administration in order to determine whether these strikes were effective.

Tonight, I voted to discharge S.J. Res. 59 from the Foreign Relations Committee. Such discharge would require the Senate to debate whether congressional authorization should be required for any further offensive military action against Iran. Given the stakes for U.S. national security, the safety of military servicemembers we represent, and the security of our allies, Senators owe the American people that debate, consistent with our constitutional role in the formation of U.S. foreign policy.

The administration has argued that last Saturday's strikes were within the President's inherent article II authorities as Commander in Chief. That debate is not relevant to Senator KAINE's S.J. Res. 59, which would pertain to future military action.

Indeed, the question for the Senate tonight was not whether the President's use of force to date has been legal and constitutional or whether the strikes themselves were necessary and effective. The question was: Should the Senate robustly debate whether any future offensive military action should require congressional approval? Given the stakes for our national security

and our constituents who serve in the Armed Forces, I regret that Senators refused to bring this measure to the floor for debate.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE FINAL AIDS/LIFECYCLE RIDE

• Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate the riders, roadies, staff, and organizers of the final AIDS/LifeCycle ride, a monumental journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles that has, for over two decades, raised critical funds and awareness in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

This ride has never been just about the 545 miles; it has been about hope, remembrance, and action. With each pedal stroke, riders have carried forward the legacy of those lost to AIDS, stood in solidarity with those living with HIV, and worked to ensure a future where no one suffers from this disease.

This year marks the end of an era. For 30 years, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles LGBT Center have partnered to organize this ride, and their leadership has transformed it into one of the world's most powerful displays of community, resilience, and compassion. Together, these two organizations have not only raised tens of millions of dollars, but have also provided direct services, prevention education, and lifesaving care to countless individuals across California and beyond.

I was proud to join AIDS/LifeCycle first as a Congressman in 2014 and even prouder to join it as a U.S. Senator representing California.

Each time, I was deeply moved by the strength, compassion, and unwavering commitment of the riders, roadies, staff, and volunteers who made this experience truly unforgettable. It was a privilege to ride alongside thousands who gave their time, energy, and hearts to this cause. To the riders who trained and sacrificed, to the roadies who made the journey possible, and to the countless volunteers and donors who fueled this mission: Thank you. You have made history. And your impact will be felt for generations.

Though this may be the final 545 ride, the movement it inspired will continue. The spirit of AIDS/LifeCycle—one of unity, determination, and love—lives on in the ongoing fight for health equity, LGBTQ+ rights, and a future free of HIV.●

##### TRIBUTE TO HELEN PARKE

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate Helen Parke of Dover, FL, and recognize her 100th birthday. Helen was born on July 7, 1925, in St. Louis, MO, and it was there that she met and married Roy Parke, Jr., in 1943.

After World War II, she worked alongside her husband on a dairy farm

in Pennsylvania. In 1957, they moved to Dover, FL, to join her father-in-law, who had purchased 10 acres of land for a strawberry farm.

What began as 10 acres of strawberry crop has grown to over 300 acres of strawberries, blackberries, vegetables, and cattle. From a small farm, it has grown to include the legendary Parkesdale Farm Market, which garners lines of visitors, including myself, that come from all over to taste their world-famous strawberry shortcake. It has also expanded to include a plant nursery and a packing/cooling facility that was added under the Parkesdale Farms banner.

Any who have had the opportunity to visit Parkesdale Farms can attest to the hard work and legacy of Helen and her family. Helen has been key to the farm's success and operations; she has hoed plants, packed berries, picked squash, and is a well-known fixture at the market, the nursery, and, of course, the annual Strawberry Festival.

She is rightly very proud of what started as a 10-acre farm and has grown and diversified so much, but she is also a proud mother to 5 children, grandmother to 10, and great-grandmother to 22.

Helen has had a very busy and "fruitful" 100 years of life. She has had a lasting impact on the State of Florida, and I wish her happiness for many more birthdays to come.●

##### TRIBUTE TO GIFFORD H. ORMES, JR.

• Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I commend Gifford H. Ormes, Jr., for his military service and lifelong dedication to his community.

Mr. Ormes served with distinction in the U.S. Air Force for 24 years. He was deployed primarily in the Far East, completing multiple tours in Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam, and he completed a unique assignment in the Khyber Pass near the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mr. Ormes was later retrained as a cost analyst. He worked briefly in that capacity before being called back into a special assignment, this time to the Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. To this day, Mr. Ormes bears the marks of his sacrificial service. During his career, he was exposed to Agent Orange. The Department of Veterans Affairs recognized him as 100-percent disabled from his exposure to the toxin.

After retiring from the Air Force, Mr. Ormes remained active. He earned a degree from William Carey University and transitioned to a civilian role at the Navy Seabee Base in Gulfport, MS, where he worked for 16 years before retiring once again.

Mr. Ormes military service is complemented by his dedication to his family and community. At Keesler Air Force Base, in Biloxi, MS, Mr. Ormes met the woman who would become his

wife. To this day, they have shared 57 years of marriage. Mr. Ormes is an active member of the Bridge United Methodist Church in D'Iberville, MS, where he leads courses to introduce people to the Christian faith and to strengthen marriage. He is also involved with the Backpack Buddies program, supporting food-insecure children by organizing and delivering nutritious food through church outreach efforts.

I join my fellow Mississippians in thanking Gifford Ormes, Jr., for his exceptional service to his country and community.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION

• Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and commend the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson, MS, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary of commercial operation. As the largest single-unit nuclear power reactor in the United States, Grand Gulf stands as a pillar of reliable and resilient nuclear energy production, for Mississippi and for the entire region.

Since beginning operations on July 1, 1985, Grand Gulf has delivered nearly 1,500 megawatts of carbon-free electricity, enough to power over 800,000 homes. It is the only nuclear power plant in the State and currently supplies approximately 16 percent of Mississippi's total power generation. Its legacy is not only measured in megawatts but also in its role as a driver of economic development, technological excellence, and environmental stewardship.

Grand Gulf's contributions to Mississippi's economy are substantial. The plant pays nearly \$30 million in State and local taxes annually and brings in an additional 800 skilled contractors during routine maintenance and refueling periods—supporting local jobs and businesses. The Mississippi State Senate recently passed a resolution honoring Grand Gulf for its sustained service and economic impact to the State of Mississippi.

At the heart of Grand Gulf's success are its people. I would like to recognize the team of over 750 highly trained nuclear professionals that operate and service the plant. Grand Gulf's team has cultivated a culture of safety, continuous improvement, and community service. The station maintains some of the highest safety standards in the industry, with redundant safety systems and rigorous employee training.

Beyond its critical energy mission, Grand Gulf is also a valued community partner. In 2023, the plant donated more than \$120,000 to local causes and logged nearly 4,000 hours of volunteer service. In 2024, more than 1,600 students visited the station to learn about careers in nuclear energy, opening doors for the next generation of skilled professionals.