

many ways. This bill will help our State defend America and defend American interests.

I actually toured, recently, a company in Ohio, late last year, that makes the bunker-busting bombs that were dropped in the very successful endeavor into Iran recently by our brave Air Force pilots and crew. That 30,000-pound bunker-busting bomb, along with many other weapons, is manufactured in our State. We are very proud to have a State that makes so many things that help preserve and maintain our freedom.

Last but not least, we are also safeguarding our future by making sure that we are lowering our deficit. I will say, I was concerned, as the bill moved through the process, about what was being said about it, about how it was going to exacerbate and add to our deficit, because we were hearing a lot of people quoting the Congressional Budget Office, saying that it was going to add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt. But when it was all said and done and the Congressional Budget Office reviewed the law, the final assessment is that it actually reduces the deficit by \$366 billion—good news.

Right now, the U.S. taxpayer is shelling out \$1 trillion a year to pay interest on our debt, which also drives up our inflation. To help pay for our current debt and the benefits we protect, we need laws, we need legislators, we need leaders who are going to make sure that this is top of mind. I have been and intend to be someone who thinks about those issues.

So while it is good news that we did not increase the deficit and that we brought it down mildly, modestly, there is still more work to do. I don't want to leave by saying that this is good enough. There is more work to do to preserve the future for our children and grandchildren by acting in a fiscally responsible way.

Ohio's interests drove my work and support for this bill from start to finish, and it is clear that it will lead to more jobs, lower taxes, higher wages, and more freedom and prosperity for Ohioans, and that means that they can live their lives with more confidence and certainty for everyone who calls our State home.

I know my colleagues will have many different takes on this bill, but this is what it does for my State. It is a good bill that supports Ohio workers. It is pro-growth, it is pro-family, and it is pro-Ohio. I know that the working people of our State will benefit from what we accomplished in the passage of this legislation.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO BROGAN BYRAM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brogan for

his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brogan is from Buffalo, WY. Brogan is currently enrolled at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in energy resource management. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Brogan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO LUCAS HOFFMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Lucas for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Lucas is originally from Westborough, MA, but now calls Wilson, WY, home. Lucas is a rising senior at Davidson College in Davidson, NC, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in politics, philosophy, and economics. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Lucas for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE HOLDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Charlotte for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Charlotte is originally from Salt Lake City, UT, but now lives in Jackson, WY. Charlotte attends Santa Clara University where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology and minoring in biotechnology. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Charlotte for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS UNDER RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I certify that the information required by Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items for H.R. 3944, as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee, has been available on a publicly accessible congressional website since approximately 10 am Eastern Time on July 18, 2025.

UNESCO

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, of all the uninformed, ill-conceived, and self-inflicted errors of this administration, the just-announced decision to withdraw from UNESCO stands out.

The justification given by the State Department spokeswoman was a recitation of outdated, vague, and inaccurate criticisms of an organization that has seen dramatic reforms over the past 7 years under the outstanding leadership of Director General Audrey Azoulay. Since her initial appointment in 2017, Director General Azoulay has made numerous trips to Washington to meet with leaders in the Congress and the administration. I have heard consistently positive reactions to her leadership of UNESCO by Republicans and Democrats alike, including regarding UNESCO's efforts to address anti-semitism.

Given Director General Azoulay's success in focusing UNESCO on its mission of promoting international cooperation and peace in a manner consistent with democratic values and human rights and dignity, one can only conclude that the administration officials behind this short-sighted decision never bothered to do their homework—or they were guided purely by Project 2025's mindless opposition to multilateralism, regardless of the facts. As far as I am aware, they did not bother to consult anyone in Congress, including those who have regularly engaged with Director General Azoulay and her professional staff.

Most Republicans and Democrats have long recognized that it is far better for the United States to be in the room, rather than remain outside and cede our influence to those who don't share our interests or values. The Chinese Government is looking for any opportunity to expand its influence in the United Nations, and UNESCO is no exception. We rejoined UNESCO in 2023 after a 5-year absence, and now, we are withdrawing again. It sends a terrible message that the United States can no longer be counted on. It is a message the Chinese will applaud.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEGU. Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I

been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 378, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 58, William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 416, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 91, Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

HONORING DEPUTY BRANDON GAEDE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory and mourn the tragic passing of a young Kansan, Phillips County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Gaede.

On Friday, June 27, Kansas lost one of its finest in the line of duty. Responding to a call in Phillipsburg, Deputy Brandon Gaede arrived promptly at the scene, and as he was attempting to make an arrest, the suspect revealed a concealed handgun and opened fire. Despite being struck several times, Brandon returned fire, neutralizing the assailant in order to protect innocent bystanders and prevent any further harm to his fellow officers. First responders and EMS quickly arrived at the scene to perform lifesaving efforts, but sadly, Brandon did not survive.

I am heartbroken by this tragedy. Words cannot describe the devastating loss felt by Brandon's family, friends, and loved ones. Brandon is survived by his wife Karlye and their three young children. This senseless act of violence has forever robbed the Gaede family of their father and husband and the Phillips County community of a dedicated public servant.

When we lose someone in a Kansas community, it is not simply just another name. It is someone we have seen at our children's school activities, stood beside at community gatherings, and gotten to know as a neighbor and friend.

Brandon's life was an example of what it means to truly serve, and I have come to learn there are many examples of Brandon's selflessness. I attended Brandon's funeral in Phillipsburg. The outpouring of love and support I saw for Brandon was incredible. Over 100 law enforcement agencies traveled to northwest Kansas to show their support for their brother in blue.

In addition to this support, law enforcement has a tradition of escorting a fallen officer to their place of rest, and as the motorcade was headed from Wichita to Phillipsburg, it passed through my hometown of Plainville. The videos I saw showed hundreds of first responders and community members lining the streets, waving American flags and saluting a fallen hero. This moment serves as a reminder to all of us that we more in common than we have apart.

Our men and women of law enforcement, officers like Brandon, put their lives on the line every day in dedication to serving their community. They selflessly stand between those they have sworn to protect and those that wish to do them harm, sacrificing much for the sake of their families, friends, and communities. While we can never repay the sacrifice of Brandon, we have a responsibility to honor his memory and make certain his sacrifice is never forgotten.

To Brandon's family, friends and loved ones: I am sorry for your loss. May God comfort you during your time of grief and be a source of strength during this difficult time.

Brandon served his community with integrity, honor, and respect. May we never forget his memory and his service, and may we each strive to live up to the values he swore to protect.

REMEMBERING LINO GUTIERREZ

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the remarkable life and career of Ambassador Lino Gutierrez, a dedicated public servant whose decades of diplomacy helped shape U.S. engagement across the Western Hemisphere. He passed away on May 3, 2025, leaving behind a legacy defined by service and impact.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ambassador Gutierrez came to the United States as a young boy, fleeing Castro's regime and beginning a journey that would see him rise to some of the highest ranks of American diplomacy. Gutierrez served in the Foreign Service under five Presidents and 11 Secretaries of State, including as U.S. Ambassador to both Nicaragua and Argentina.

In those roles, Ambassador Gutierrez led and oversaw a number of significant achievements. During his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, the United States and Argentina signed agreements on counterterrorism and counternarcotics cooperation and container security. As Acting Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Gutierrez led the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs on September 11, 2001, and beyond. He accompanied Secretary of State Colin Powell to Lima, Peru, for the signing of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and returned with the Secretary's party to the United States on September 11, 2001. During his tenure in Nicaragua, Gutierrez oversaw efforts to demobilize and reintegrate the Contra fighters into civil society, strengthen the country's newly established democratic government after years of authoritarian rule, and coordinated the U.S. relief effort following the deadly devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

After retiring from the State Department, Ambassador Gutierrez remained deeply committed to strengthening the Foreign Service. As executive director of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, he championed initiatives to enhance recruitment, professional development,

and public understanding of diplomacy. He also taught as an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities, served on the board of Georgetown's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, was appointed by Secretary of State John Kerry to the Foreign Service Grievance Board, and provided expert guidance to DACOR on fostering strong U.S.-Latin America relations. Through these endeavors, Ambassador Gutierrez leaves behind a remarkable legacy which will continue to shape the next generation of U.S. diplomatic and foreign policy leaders.

Ambassador Gutierrez embodied the American ideal of public service. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Miriam, their three daughters, and six grandchildren. May his example continue to inspire all who believe in diplomacy as a force for peace, security, and opportunity.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDRICK "SKIP" BURKLE

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, Dr. Fredrick "Skip" Burkle, Jr., is a distinguished veteran, physician, and humanitarian whose service to our Nation exemplifies the highest ideals of courage and compassion. Throughout his career, Dr. Burkle has selflessly dedicated his life to graciously serve not only the American people, but countless others who his influence and expertise extended to.

Dr. Burkle was drafted into the U.S. Navy at the height of the Vietnam war as a military physician at Delta Med, a Forward Casualty Receiving Facility for the 3rd Marine Division near the Demilitarized Zone. Under relentless mortar fire and nightly combat, Dr. Burkle provided lifesaving care to wounded marines, civilians, and enemy combatants alike. While serving at Delta Med, Dr. Burkle came under an incoming enemy attack which caused him to collide into the wall of a bunker, resulting in a traumatic brain injury. However, Dr. Burkle did not let this injury stop him from continuing his career of service.

His valor and dedication earned him the Bronze Star with Combat V, a testament to his extraordinary service in an extremely dangerous engagement of the war. In 1975, Dr. Burkle returned to Vietnam to serve as the medical director for Operation Babylift, a daring humanitarian mission that evacuated thousands of orphans from Saigon in the final days of the war. His leadership during this operation saved countless lives and demonstrated the enduring commitment of American compassion in times of crisis. During the Persian Gulf War, Dr. Burkle served as senior medical officer at Al Khanjar Navy-Marine Trauma Center, one of the largest field hospitals in the Marine Corps' history.

Dr. Burkle retired as a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve, but his commitment to public service did not end there. He went on to become one of the