

in West Haven, Connecticut, as the "Captain Paul W. 'Bud' Bucha VA Medical Center".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 2682) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2682

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Captain Paul W. 'Bud' Bucha VA Medical Center Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha was born on August 1, 1943, in Washington, DC.

(2) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha, a recipient of the Medal of Honor and an advocate for veterans, is an American hero.

(3) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha, the son of a colonel in the Army, spent his childhood in California, Germany, Indiana, Japan, and St. Louis, Missouri.

(4) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha turned down several scholarships for both academics and athletics and instead enrolled in the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He went on to be a two-time All-American and captain of the West Point swim team. In 1965, he graduated in the top 5 percent of his class and number two in Military Order of Merit.

(5) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha earned a Masters of Business Administration from Stanford University in 1967, all while completing Airborne and Ranger training between academic years.

(6) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha reported for duty with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to prepare for deployment to Vietnam as part of Operation Eagle Thrust in November 1967.

(7) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha was appointed commander of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment. His company was the last rifle company to be formed during an Army expansion. He jokingly recalled that his recruits were men who had flunked basic infantry tasks, former prisoners, and "guys with master's degrees in Elizabethan literature". He took pride in his company, dubbed the "clerks and jerks". They went on to become one of the most decorated units by the end of the war.

(8) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha distinguished himself with extraordinary heroism while leading 89 men on a reconnaissance mission near Phuoc Vinh, Vietnam, from March 16th through 18th, 1968. As part of the Tet Offensive, his unit was dropped by helicopter and his men set out to repel attacks by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. As the sun set on March 18, 1968, he and his men advanced into a dense jungle and found themselves outgunned by approximately 1,500 enemy troops. Under attack, he crawled 40 yards through the hail of fire and single-handedly destroyed a machine-gun bunker with grenades, all while sustaining a shrapnel wound. He then orchestrated an overnight offensive, directing his men to spread out, throw grenades, and unleash heavy fire. He made the enemy believe they were a much larger force. His leadership led to the defeat of a superior Vietnamese stronghold,

leaving 156 enemy dead. Come morning, he guided the medical evacuation of three air-ambulance loads of seriously wounded personnel.

(9) President Richard Nixon presented the Medal of Honor to Paul W. "Bud" Bucha in a ceremony at the White House in 1970.

(10) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha originally wanted to turn down the Medal of Honor because he did not feel deserving. In Vietnam, he asked his men to trust him and, in turn, promised to bring them home safe. Ten of his men were killed on the night of March 18, 1968. Paul W. "Bud" Bucha ultimately accepted the Medal of Honor in their memory, saying it belongs to his men.

(11) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha resigned his Army commission in 1972.

(12) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha was an active member of several veterans service organizations (commonly referred to as "VSOs"), including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. He generously served on the board of directors of Homes for Our Troops, a VSO that builds specially adapted custom homes for severely injured veterans. He also served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training Services at the Department of Labor.

(13) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha used his voice for veterans struggling with mental health. He believed that all veterans, whether they have "four stars or no stripes, man or woman", would be touched by post-traumatic stress. He used the term "post-traumatic stress" to acknowledge the impact of combat experiences on the mental health of veterans and he intentionally left out the word "disorder" to help destigmatize their struggle.

(14) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha battled post-traumatic stress on his own for 42 years before courageously seeking help at the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut. In the final years of his life, Paul W. "Bud" Bucha also received neurological care at that medical center. His family expressed deep gratitude for the compassionate and skilled care he received, especially recognizing the leadership of Dr. Huned Patwa, Chief of Staff, and Dr. Becky Rhoads, Executive Director. His family also commended the dedicated neurologists, psychiatrists, and oncologists who supported him as his health declined.

(15) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha spent the last two weeks of his life at the medical center of the Department in West Haven, Connecticut, and passed away from complications of Alzheimer's disease on July 31, 2024. In his final act of courage and service, he donated his brain to the Center for Human Brain Discovery at Yale University.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF CAPTAIN PAUL W. "BUD" BUCHA VA MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut, or any successor location for such medical center, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Captain Paul W. 'Bud' Bucha Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" or the "Captain Paul W. 'Bud' Bucha VA Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Captain Paul W. "Bud" Bucha VA Medical Center.

LEONARD G. 'BUD' LOMELL, VA CLINIC

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2170, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2170) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. 'Bud' Lomell, VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2170) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000 TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 1155 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1155) to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to make technical corrections.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1155) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1155

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

Section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (16), by striking "paragraph (9)" and inserting "paragraph (11)"; and

(2) in paragraph (17), by striking "paragraph (9) or (10)" and inserting "paragraph (11) or (12)".

HOMEBUYERS PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 104, H.R. 2808.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2808) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2808) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3944

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the passage of H.R. 3944, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make changes necessary to make sure each adopted amendment is incorporated in the text of the bill as amended.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, con-

ferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Roger F. Wicker, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Banks, Thom Tillis, David McCormick, James Lankford, Jon A. Husted.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
AUGUST 5, 2025, AT 1 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 1 p.m., Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:59 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 1 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate August 2, 2025:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CATHERINE HANSON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MARCUS MOLINARO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIAN BURCH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HOLY SEE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JASON REDING QUINONES, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LUKE LINDBERG, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ADAM TELLE, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREW PUZZER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SEAN CAIRNCROSS, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN ARRIGO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JEANINE PIRRO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.