

trends, developing strategies, and sharing these practices.

Ask professional law enforcement and they will tell you in virtually every conversation on the subject that you can't arrest your way out of a crime wave; you have got to analyze the basic causes of crime and what to do about it. Of course, dangerous people should be arrested and should pay the price for their wrongdoing, but a strategy that reduces violent crime over any long period of time takes more than that.

Replacing these efforts with troops not trained for urban policing risks alienating residents, destabilizing neighborhoods, and harming the National Guard's reputation. And I can tell you, over the years, I have come to be a big fan of the National Guard. They are there when we need them. We shouldn't overuse them. We shouldn't abuse them. We shouldn't put them in jobs they are not trained for. That is exactly what the Trump administration is doing in the District of Columbia and threatening to do in Illinois.

Incidentally, there is one common fact that belies any objectivity in this effort. You would think if the President were setting out to eliminate crime across America, he could find many examples in red States and blue States, States that supported him and States that didn't. All he has found are in the areas that were voting for Joseph Biden in the election of 2020, and those States are the State of California, the State of Illinois, the District of Columbia, and now he is threatening to move into Maryland.

So if he is going after crime, why is he ignoring the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, or Texas? Why? Because they voted for him for President. He doesn't see crime in those States. And there is just as much, if not more, as there is in the State of Illinois. Yet he focuses his attention only on blue States. All of these States that I have mentioned have high violent crime rates. President Trump doesn't target them because they are led by Republican officials. That is it. It is a political decision.

Trump's power grab sets a precedent that any President could invoke to deploy troops anywhere without an actual emergency. He was called to task by a judge in California on that just this week, and I am sure that will be contested. He is reinforcing a pattern of targeting large cities with significant Black and Latino populations, undermining trust between law enforcement and the community.

The Founders of this Nation understood that an unchecked power to turn the military on the American people themselves poses a grave threat to democracy and individual liberty. Trump's decision to deploy the military in American cities is more fitting for an authoritarian regime than the democracy that our Nation's Founding Fathers fought for.

These tactics are all smoke and mirrors to distract from the real issues facing us. Trump is hoping the American people will forget about his so-called "Big Beautiful" budget that rips away healthcare and food aid for millions across America—all to give tax breaks to the wealthiest—or forget how his reckless tariff policies are increasing the costs on everyday goods and essentials that working people rely on, or forget about the Epstein coverup being orchestrated by this White House.

Well, America won't forget, and we will continue to hold Donald Trump's feet to the fire where it counts. As the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary and a Senator from the State of Illinois, I will not sit idly by while this President tramples over the Constitution. I will use every tool at my disposal to protect our constitutional system of checks and balances and individual liberties that define us as Americans—from Los Angeles, to Chicago, to the District of Columbia, and everywhere in between. We will continue to put pressure on this administration to explain to the American people why we would waste millions of dollars appropriated for the defense of this country on a political stunt by this President that applies only to blue States that went for Joe Biden in the 2020 election.

The bottom line is the American people want to be safe in their homes and in their neighborhoods and safe as a Nation. This strategy by Donald Trump is not going to achieve that goal.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 262.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 262, Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

John Thune, David McCormick, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Ron Johnson, Kevin Cramer, Jim Banks, Pete Ricketts, Rick Scott of Florida, Ted Budd, Josh Hawley, Jim Justice.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 291.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

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 legislative 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 291, Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Mike Lee, Eric Schmitt, Katie Boyd Britt, John Barrasso, Marsha Blackburn, Chuck Grassley, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, James Lankford, Rick Scott of Florida, Jim Banks.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. I ask consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the

motion to proceed to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

The Armed Services Committee approved this bill in July by a wide bipartisan vote of 26 to 1. I appreciated the opportunity to work with Senator WICKER and commend him for his leadership in this regard and also my colleagues on the committee who worked to produce this bill that we are now considering on the floor.

But before I turn to the details of the bill, I must take a moment to address the ongoing deployment of National Guard troops here in the capital and across the country. Over the past several months, President Trump has drastically escalated his use of the military for political purposes, first in Los Angeles—in fact, a judge, today, found that it violated the Posse Comitatus Act with his actions—and now in Washington and very likely soon in other major cities. The President has abused his power as Commander in Chief to order thousands of military servicemembers to conduct law enforcement in American cities. This is antithetical to the core principles of our country. Our military is there to fight our wars. Police officers, under local jurisdiction, are there to enforce the laws. And then there are Federal laws that can be enforced by Federal authorities, not military personnel.

I have always been a proponent of strong law enforcement and safety in our communities. That is why I supported the COPS and Byrne-JAG Programs, among others. But using military forces to police American citizens blurs the vital line between civilian law enforcement and the armed forces, and it damages public trust. Public trust in the military is hard-won and easily lost. And I fear the President is causing severe harm to that relationship.

These deployments threaten the very freedoms our servicemembers swear to protect, and I urge my Republican colleagues to join us in calling for them to end immediately, this use of military personnel to enforce the civil laws of the United States.

To that end, the fiscal year 2026 NDAA establishes important congressional oversight of Defense Support of Civil Authorities. The bill reinstates mandatory training for all servicemembers on the rules of engagement, domestic operations, ethics, and the code of conduct to prevent escalation during deployments on American soil—legal deployments—under both title 10 and title 32. It requires personnel deployed alongside law enforcement to wear clear service identification on their uniforms and ensures military lawyers remain fully qualified and in good standing.

The bill also mandates reviews of military costs incurred supporting the Department of Homeland Security, reporting on the use of military facilities for migrant detention, and transparency when military aircraft and resources are diverted for immigration enforcement. We are accumulating a multi-multimillion-dollar bill in the Department of Defense for functions that are the responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security. That is not smart spending. That is not a wise investment in our military.

Together, the provisions I described provide greater assurances that when our troops are deployed domestically and legally, their role is tightly defined, accountable, and consistent with American values.

More broadly, this is a defense bill that is laser-focused on the threats we face. It addresses a broad range of pressing issues from strategic competition with China and Russia to countering defense from Iran, North Korea, and violent extremists.

The bill authorizes important investments in key technology like artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, and hypersonics, and makes real progress toward modernizing our ships, aircraft, and combat vehicles.

Most importantly, this NDAA delivers key wins for servicemembers and their families. It authorizes a 3.8-percent pay raise for our troops and provides important new resources, such as improved housing and barracks, additional childcare assistance benefits, and expanded programs to address traumatic brain injuries. It also strengthens education support for military children and requires more transparency in how pay and housing allowances are calculated.

Our greatest asset in this country are the men and women of our Armed Forces. They deserve and they have earned these benefits. Bringing into the military qualified Americans from all ranks and all sections and all regions, both genders, is critical to the success of our military forces.

Additionally, this bill reaffirms America's role on the world stage. It extends and expands the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and commits the Department of Defense to continue providing military and intelligence support to Ukraine.

It also strengthens our alliances in Asia by fully funding the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and providing new authority for U.S. military cooperation with Taiwan. The bill would help modernize our partnership with Japan and the Philippines and ensure our defense industrial base works hand in hand with our allies to counter shared threats. Importantly, the bill will also prohibit any reckless reductions in our force posture in Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

Building upon progress directed by Congress the past several years, this year's bill further improves defense acquisition processes by enabling the De-

partment to rapidly invest in and field cutting-edge commercial technologies. By improving defense small business programs and partnerships with high-tech companies, this legislation will help meet the defense, industrial, and civilian needs of the United States.

Similarly, to compete successfully abroad, our military services and combat commanders must have the resources they need. This legislation broadly supports the procurement of naval vessels, combat aircraft, armored vehicles, weapon systems, and munitions requested in the President's defense budget for fiscal year 2026.

The bill provides additional funding for the procurement of Virginia- and Columbia-class submarines, which are critical to power projection and deterrence around the world. Importantly, this NDAA also provides greater predictability and stability in our naval acquisition programs and improves the U.S. shipbuilding infrastructure through modernization efforts.

And as we navigate the threats of nuclear escalation from Russia and increasing capabilities from China, this Defense bill strengthens our deterrence strategy by helping to modernize the U.S. nuclear triad. It makes progress in ensuring the safety, security, and reliability of our nuclear stockpile, our delivery systems, and our infrastructure, increasing capacity in theater and homeland missile defense and strengthening nonproliferation programs.

There are many more provisions in this bill that will help equip the Department and our warfighters with the tools they need to succeed. I look forward to discussing them throughout this process on the floor.

Let me conclude by, once again, thanking Senator WICKER and my colleagues for working, thoughtfully, on a bipartisan basis to develop this important piece of legislation. I look forward to a very thoughtful debate on the issues that face our national defense and our Department of Defense.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, the Senate is about to take up this year's National Defense Authorization Act. My colleagues and I on the Senate Armed Services Committee have worked hard to bring this bill to the floor for consideration by all of our fellow Senators, and we bring it to our colleagues with a resounding committee action.

In our committee markup, we voted in a landslide—26 yeas and only 1 nay—to advance the bill—a nearly unanimous endorsement of this legislation. My colleagues and I have spent

the past 7 months listening to the Nation's top military officials. These officials from command stations all over the world have detailed the dangerous threat environment facing the United States. This NDAA is a direct response to their testimony. In our overwhelmingly positive committee vote, we send a clear message: We agree with the testimony of our military officials. Both Republicans and Democrats agree that we are not where we need to be on national defense. This bill helps close that gap.

The committee's fiscal year 2026 NDAA is focused on two things: rebuild and reform. Again, by a vote of 26 to 1, we adopted a bill with a \$924.7 billion top line—an increase that recognizes the urgent need to rebuild our military. We also adopted numerous reforms to the Pentagon's antiquated business processes captured in my **FORGED Act**—the most significant acquisition reform proposal in decades.

This NDAA will help rebuild the U.S. military so that our servicemembers are better equipped for the threats of the 21st century. This bill makes investments in cutting-edge technology, such as artificial intelligence, cyber defenses, drone production, and the means to defend ourselves against drones. We authorized a 3.8-percent pay raise for servicemembers, and we expanded programs to continue President Trump's successful military recruitment surge. This NDAA supports the DOD's role in border security and rolls back statutory requirements for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at the Pentagon.

Throughout, we sought to give the President the tools needed to keep the homeland safe. This NDAA helps equip the United States to counter the Chinese Communist Party. The committee included authorizations to replenish munitions used earlier this year against Iran, to accelerate shipbuilding, and to support the Golden Dome initiative and many other important initiatives.

This National Defense Authorization Act would bring the Pentagon's acquisition process into the modern day. As one example, in just a single provision of this bill, we repeal 86 outdated or unnecessary acquisition policies. Actions like that help turn the page on an outdated system as we look to the future.

This bill streamlines decision-making processes at the Pentagon and brings more competition to the procurement process. The committee recognizes that America is full of innovators who are developing exactly the kinds of technologies that dominate the battlefields of the 21st century. We have produced an NDAA that taps into that talent.

Our deliberations resulted in an overwhelming vote count. Perhaps one reason for such a consensus was that our drafting process was collaborative and involved. The bill contains 985 items that were driven by Members of this

body. Of that, 78 items were Member requests for military construction. Another 136 items came from Senators requesting budget increases for procurement operations and maintenance and research and development, and 771 items were policy ideas directly responding to Member requests. In total, those 985 items totaled 60 more than last year and are a sign of a strong, bipartisan consensus that we need to move quickly to modernize our Armed Forces. As those statistics bear out, this is a highly Member-driven bill.

Our committee markup was characterized by that same collaborative spirit. We conducted 49 votes on amendments, working from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., only 10 hours—perhaps a record—and I am certain it was an efficient and effective process.

As I look at that 26-to-1 committee vote—have I emphasized that enough, a 26-yes, 1-no committee vote?—I want to thank my colleagues on the committee.

My dear friend, the ranking member, **JACK REED** of Rhode Island, has already spoken. He deserves credit. He and his colleagues contributed thoughtful and decisive ideas to this bill, and our staffs worked closely throughout the process.

As I prepare to conclude, may I stress that a regular order process will always yield the best results. I regret that, last summer, the NDAA was not given full consideration on the Senate floor. This is our opportunity to correct that. I am confident that **Leader Thune** will want to do things differently this week and next. We need an open amendment process undertaken in the light of day. My fellow Senators have already filed hundreds of amendments. The American people deserve to see how their elected officials are voting on important national security matters.

It has not been that long since we have had an open amendment process with multiple managers' packages and dozens of votes. As recently as 2023, we considered 900 amendments during floor debate, and we adopted 121 of them—the most amendments adopted to the Senate NDAA in years. We can do it again, and I ask my colleagues to join us in showing this great body by working as the Founders intended.

In an increasingly dangerous world, this is our moment to provide a strong national defense. My colleagues on the Armed Services Committee stand fully behind this bill. We are eager to begin working with the rest of our colleagues in the Senate as we consider this year's National Defense Authorization Act on the floor. Let's have a resounding "yes" vote in just a few minutes, and then let's get to work.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled rollcall vote commence immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative 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 the 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.

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 Husted.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (**Mr. SCOTT**) and the Senator from North Carolina (**Mr. TILLIS**).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (**Mr. TILLIS**) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 500 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alsobrooks	Gallego	Moran
Banks	Gillibrand	Moreno
Barrasso	Graham	Mullin
Bennet	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murphy
Blumenthal	Hassan	Murray
Blunt	Hawley	Ossoff
Boozman	Heinrich	Peters
Britt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Budd	Hirono	Ricketts
Cantwell	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rosen
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Schiff
Coons	Justice	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kaine	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kim	Shaheen
Cramer	King	Sheehy
Crapo	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Curtis	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lujan	Tuberville
Duckworth	Lummis	Warner
Durbin	Marshall	Warnock
Ernst	McConnell	Whitehouse
Fetterman	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

NAYS—14

Baldwin	Padilla	Van Hollen
Booker	Paul	Warren
Kennedy	Sanders	Welch
Markey	Schatz	Wyden
Merkley	Smith	

NOT VOTING—2

Scott (SC)	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays of 14.

Three-fifths of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, have voted in the affirmative. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

REMEMBERING FRANK T. CAPRIO

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE to pay tribute to a legendary Rhode Islander, Judge Frank T. Caprio, whose limitless compassion while serving as the chief judge of the Municipal Court of Providence made him a beloved figure not only in Rhode Island but around the world.

Judge Caprio's illustrious career was marked by a special dedication to serving others, and it spanned nearly 40 years with the Providence Municipal Court, where he established a reputation for his empathy in the application of justice.

Judge Caprio passed away on August 20, 2025, at the age of 88 after a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. In his signature optimistic and heartwarming way, Judge Caprio did not let his diagnosis dampen his good spirits, and he continued to spread his warmth to the many fans he earned through the Emmy-nominated television show "Caught in Providence."

This show, "Caught in Providence," was a worldwide phenomenon. It was picked up virtually all across the globe, which made him an international celebrity, not just a local Rhode Island personality. Through national syndication and social media, the "Nicest Judge in the World" scored legions of admirers.

Following his example, we want to take a moment to honor his legacy, which will undoubtedly continue to live on through the many lives he touched in the courtroom and throughout the world.

Let me be very, very clear. Frank Caprio was a great man. His greatness came from two fundamental principles: He never forgot where he came from and who he came from.

As a son of an immigrant father and a Providence native mother, Judge Caprio grew up in the Italian neighborhood of Federal Hill in Providence, just down the street from the courthouse where he presided.

He learned from his father to work hard and to help others wherever possible. He spoke often of shining shoes to make a little extra cash as well as his father's apt advice to always put himself in the other person's shoes, to understand who people are and what brought them to where they are today.

His message as a judge was never about punishment. He saw people first

and sought fairness in justice. He was committed not just to enforcing the law but to doing justice. In word and deed, Judge Caprio exemplified his father's advice.

Speaking with CBS News after his diagnosis—again demonstrating his unyielding humility—Judge Caprio said:

I'm just a small-town municipal court judge, just trying to do good. That's how I am. . . . [I try] to take into consideration the circumstances surrounding the people before me. And remember what my dad told me . . . when someone appears before you, put yourself in their shoes . . . imagine it's you before them. How do you want to be treated?

As much as he tried to play down his contributions, Judge Caprio was much more than "a small-town municipal court judge"; he was the premier example of noble public service and the embodiment of the ideal form of justice, one that focuses less on punishment and judgment and more on overcoming our mistakes, seeking forgiveness, and forging a stronger community.

Before his time on the court, his dedication to service was apparent. He was a teacher, a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard, and a local elected official. Judge Caprio was also a dedicated lawyer, an accomplished restaurateur, and a business owner.

He also treasured the wisdom his parents shared and valued the opportunities that education brought him. He wanted to see others share in that success, so he worked to create scholarships and served for a decade as chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Judge Caprio's compassion and generosity inspired the best in others. After seeing his kindness online and on TV, viewers from around the world sent in unsolicited donations to support Judge Caprio's mission—so many donations, in fact, they inspired the establishment of a fund known as the Filomena Fund, which was named after Judge Caprio's beloved mother. The fund celebrates the generosity of his mother—a trait so clearly inherited by Judge Caprio. Even after Judge Caprio's retirement, the Filomena Fund continues to support charitable work in and around his beloved neighborhood of Federal Hill.

His support for philanthropic causes, and the scholarships he established to support those seeking to make a difference in their community, further exemplified Judge Caprio's work to lift up those around him.

A true believer in the power of empathy, Judge Caprio used his wit, wisdom, and grace to make the world a better place.

He often said:

Kindness is the one gift that costs nothing but means everything.

A humble and benevolent man of integrity, Judge Caprio was bestowed with the Mother Teresa Award for Social Justice in 2023.

Judge Caprio was a mentor to generations of Rhode Island leaders. I always enjoyed catching up with him over a cup of coffee. We spoke of current events, the state of our Nation, and about our families. I valued his wisdom, optimism, and sensibility, and I will remember him fondly for his generous spirit, his personal example of leadership and, indeed, his many, many kindnesses to me.

Along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I want to express our deepest condolences to Judge Caprio's beloved wife of more than 60 years, Joyce. I also want to extend my condolences to Judge Caprio's entire family—Frank, David, Marissa, John, and Paul, his children, along with his seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who filled him with enormous joy.

Know that your husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather is a shining example of a great man and a cherished public servant. Through you, his love and empathy will live on.

And now I yield to my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE to continue this tribute to this truly good and decent man whose life has brought honor to every Rhode Islander.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I thank Senator REED, and I am very cognizant of the honor of having the chance to reflect on Judge Frank Caprio, who was indeed, as Senator REED has said, a Rhode Island legend.

Judge Caprio was Rhode Island through and through. He was born on Federal Hill, an iconic Italian-American neighborhood in Providence. He started helping his milkman father about age 10. A lot of the apartments there were three-decker tenements. Somebody had to run the milk bottles up to that third floor. An energetic 10-year-old was just the one to do it.

He went on to study in Providence's public schools and, to earn money, served as a dishwasher and a shoeshiner while he was a student.

He graduated and went on to Providence College, the first in his family of dozens of cousins to attend college. And, of course, he graduated. And then he went back to teach at Hope High School to give back to the Providence school system that had lifted him up and taught him so well.

He also served in Rhode Island's Army National Guard for years.

Eventually, he became a lawyer. It wasn't easy. He had to work. So he had to take night classes up in Boston, and Providence to Boston for night classes is a considerable effort.

He became a Providence city councilman, and, ultimately, he became chief judge of the Providence Municipal Court, chief judge for 38 years. It was there where the man found his mission, and the mission found its man and that was, while presiding over literally thousands of cases, to become an exemplar of what is right and what is decent

when somebody is coming before you having a very bad day.

He heard cases related to unpaid parking tickets and traffic violations, and he listened to everyone who came before him.

His authenticity quickly captured the hearts and minds of Rhode Islanders. His TV show from the courtroom, "Caught in Providence," first became a treasure of Rhode Island Public Access TV, but then it exploded. Judge Caprio and his court officer and straight man Ziggy Quinn turned the tedium of traffic court into a beloved and enduring human spectacle, and people from around the world tuned in. People told Judge Caprio their stories of personal hardship, and he listened. Whenever he could, he gave the benefit of the doubt and offered advice and encouragement, delivered in that signature Federal Hill voice.

Sometimes there were tears of relief. Sometimes there was laughter. Some of those moments went viral online, racking up more than a billion views. People were attracted to Judge Caprio because he did not fake authenticity. He was the real deal.

The show became nationally syndicated in 2018. And when that syndication deal was announced, Judge Caprio called it "a dream." It was wonderful that he could have his dream come true in his lifetime.

So the world got to witness Judge Caprio's compassion. The empathetic judge from Rhode Island became an ambassador for our capital city and for our State and for his solid, old-school values. He did it his way. And we all got to enjoy it.

At the end, stricken with pancreatic cancer, he was still giving back and still being compassionate. At the last PurpleStride pancreatic cancer walk that he attended, he and I sat next to each other for 15 minutes chatting and catching up. He was, by then, quite the celebrity. He could have hustled in and hustled back out, gone to do other things. No. He wanted to just hang out with people and be there and make sure that the entire proceedings went off well. He did not treat himself as a star, but he was one.

Judge Caprio's son David said that the Judge's parting advice to him was this:

Take care of each other. Keep the family close. And help people if you can.

That sums it up nicely.

I offer my condolences to his wife Joyce of more than 60 years and to their five children: David, who also served in government in Rhode Island; Marissa; Frank, who also served in government in Rhode Island, was our treasurer; Paul; and John. Quite a family. It has lost its patriarch. Our hearts are with them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REED. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LUMMIS. 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.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL J. HOUSTON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on this very day, an outstanding civic and business leader in my home State and our capital city of Des Moines, will conclude an impressive 41-year career with the Principal Financial Group. Today, Dan Houston will step down as chair of the Principal Board of Directors.

As many Iowans do throughout their careers, Dan rose through the company ranks by climbing the corporate ladder with hard work, grit, and sacrifice. He showed exemplary leadership skills and thrived in a competitive environment to build a culture of opportunity and servant leadership at Principal Financial Group.

During my first term in the U.S. Senate, Dan joined Principal in 1984 as part of the sales team after graduating from Iowa State University. Through the years, he took on key leadership roles, including president, CCO, and CEO. For the past decade, Dan served as the driving force to steer Principal through extraordinary times. At the helm, Dan navigated one of the largest acquisitions in company history, a global pandemic, and a new enterprise strategy, just to name a few.

A principled leader, Dan cultivated a successful climate by planting the seeds of success for team members on every rung of the ladder. With charisma and generosity, he inspired the company's rank-and-file and management teams to manage assets, innovate, and build tools to help people achieve retirement security.

In addition to an impressive professional career in global finance and asset management, Dan shared his visionary leadership skills to give back to the greater Des Moines area, including Principal's philanthropic contributions to United Way, the annual Principal Charity Classic, and of course, the scenic Principal Riverwalk that transformed downtown Des Moines with a series of parks and public-use areas along the banks of the Des Moines River.

When I served as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I was glad to lead Iowa's congressional delegation to help support this infrastructure project that links the east and west sides of our State capital in the heart of downtown Des Moines. Thanks to a

public-private alliance and gifts from the Principal Foundation, generations of Iowans and outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy its landscaped public spaces, world class public art, pedestrian bridges, and pathways that connect downtown with 300 miles of central Iowa trails.

Although Dan is hanging up his CEO hat, Iowans will continue to reap the benefit from the bounty that his servant leadership brings to the community. I have no doubt Dan and his wife Joanie will throw their civic stewardship into high gear to support causes closest to their hearts—including Joanie's work with hospice and ChildServe—and Dan's contributions to the ICON Water Trails, Legacy Woods, the Principal Charity Classic, Iowa State University's Ivy College of Business, and Future Ready Iowa Alliance, among others.

Barbara and I wish Dan and Joanie many years of happiness in retirement. Dan spent his entire professional career helping people reach retirement security. Now, it is time for you to enjoy the fruits of your labor. May this next chapter bring even more quality family time with your children and grandchildren. Congratulations, Dan, you have left the Principal Group, and your adopted hometown of Des Moines, even better than you found it.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-41, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$97.3 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public