

Authorization Act meets this moment. It includes key provisions I secured to modernize our nuclear deterrent and strengthen our national defense.

As chair of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I fought to upgrade the National Nuclear Security Administration's infrastructure. The bill establishes an annual independent assessment of NNSA's progress toward modernization goals, ensuring our nuclear deterrent remains both effective and up to date.

It requires the deployment of at least 400 intercontinental ballistic missiles across no fewer than 450 launch facilities, maintaining a force structure capable of deterring any nuclear-capable adversary.

It authorizes more than \$4 billion for the Sentinel Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program, and it requires that it be fielded no later than September 30, 2033.

It accelerates the sea-launched nuclear cruise missile program. And it expands experimentation and prototyping authority to all combatant commands, including U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base in my home State of Nebraska.

This is exactly the kind of strategic deterrence that makes our adversaries think twice and say: Not today.

This year's NDAA also safeguards critical defense spectrum. Some in Washington have suggested that the Pentagon is sitting on spectrum bands that could be better used for commercial wireless. That portrayal is both inaccurate, and it is dangerous. The reality is these frequencies are not idle. They are the backbone of America's missile defense and intelligence systems. And we should not be allowing Federal Agencies to sell critical communication channels needed to carry out the Trump administration's priorities, including the Golden Dome missile defense shield. That is why this year's defense bill prohibits any modifications to defense systems in these spectrums bands unless top Pentagon leaders themselves deem it absolutely necessary.

Earlier this summer, I led the effort to secure—for the first time in law—a carve-out that prevents the Federal Communications Commission from auctioning or reallocating these bands for the next decade. The NDAA provision is consistent with these protections, ensuring that we strike the right balance: unleashing America's wireless innovation, while never compromising our national security.

We are also preparing for the threats that we cannot yet see. I secured provisions to assess the readiness of the National Disaster Medical System, to modernize our roadmaps for cloud migration and artificial intelligence, and to ensure that our intelligence community has the meteorological and environmental services that it needs.

But all of these priorities mean little without investing in the brave men and women who carry them out. That is

why I fought to authorize \$19 million above the President's budget request to help recover and identify the remains of our fallen servicemembers from past wars and conflicts. The U.S. military leaves no one behind.

And through this bill, we are directing the Pentagon to explore whether local communities can play a more active role in helping develop the Department's healthcare facilities, similar to my CHIP IN for Veterans Act. This is the very least we can do for the troops and the families who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms that we hold dear.

Beyond the details, we must keep sight of the bigger picture. Our adversaries—nations that hate America—well, they are sharing weapons and resources and a common goal. They want to weaken American power and dismantle our influence across the globe.

The character of war has evolved rapidly. Breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, hypersonic weapons, next-generation aircraft, and space-based capabilities, they are all reshaping the battlefield. At the same time, we live in a political environment that is too often partisan and divided.

Yet on this issue, I believe most of my colleagues agree that we must confront these threats head-on, and that means rebuilding the arsenal of democracy.

To do so, we need serious reform at the Pentagon. This year's NDAA delivers: modernizing the budget process, cutting redtape, improving efficiency, and unleashing innovation. This is not partisan. This is not political. This is necessity.

Our servicemembers must have the resources they need to carry out their missions and return home to their loved ones. This bill strengthens our military, and it sends a very clear message: America is prepared to meet the moment.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it without delay.

NOMINATION OF EDWARD L. ARTAU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Edward L. Artau to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

I will vote in opposition to Judge Artau's confirmation to a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench. There are several reasons why I cannot support his nomination. Based on Judge Artau's record, I do not believe that he will be a neutral arbiter on the Federal bench. In a case involving President Trump's lawsuit against the individual members of the Pulitzer Prize Board for defamation and conspiracy, Judge Artau went beyond ruling on the jurisdictional question at issue. In Judge Artau's concurring opinion, he took it upon himself to zealously make the President's case, opening and closing his opinion echoing the President's own words, "FAKE NEWS."

The partisan tone of Judge Artau's writing and his zealous advocacy of

President Trump's case from the bench leaves the public with no question about his political preferences and raises concerns about his ability to be a neutral arbiter of the law. At a time when this administration's actions are being challenged in courtrooms across the country, it is critical to confirm judges who can assess the merits of each case without favor to any litigant. Judge Artau's concurring opinion makes clear that he would not be able to do this.

I am also troubled by the timing of his nomination and this highly partisan opinion. Judge Artau had been in contact with Senator SCOTT's office about his interest in filling a judicial vacancy in November 2024, a month before he was assigned to this case.

Despite actively seeking President Trump's nomination, Judge Artau claimed that he did not need to recuse himself or inform the parties in the litigation.

Two days after Judge Artau proved his allegiance to President Trump with his opinion, Judge Artau was advised his name would be recommended to the White House. Eight days after the opinion was issued, Judge Artau was contacted by the White House for an interview.

It is hard to believe that the hyperpartisan tone of Judge Artau's opinion and the timing of his nomination is just a coincidence.

I cannot support Judge Artau's nomination and urge my colleagues to reject this overt attempt to install another MAGA loyalist to the bench.

VOTE ON ARTAU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Artau nomination?

Mr. CURTIS. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 504 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Cassidy	Curtis
Barrasso	Collins	Daines
Blackburn	Cornyn	Ernst
Boozman	Cotton	Fischer
Britt	Cramer	Graham
Budd	Crapo	Grassley
Capito	Cruz	Hagerty

Hawley	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hoeven	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Thune
Justice	Mullin	Tillis
Kennedy	Paul	Tuberville
Lankford	Ricketts	Wicker
Lee	Rounds	Young
Lummis	Schmitt	

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—7

Blunt	Rochester	Ossoff	Wyden
McCormick		Risch	
Murkowski		Van Hollen	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. RES. 377

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for the consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the resolution for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 377) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over 1 calendar day.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 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. MORAN. 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 WORLD WAR II ITALIAN CAMPAIGN
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this evening, I want to recognize the upcoming anniversary of an important day in our Nation's history and in our military history. September 9 marks the beginning of the Italian campaign

of World War II in 1943, a campaign that was only successful because of the courage and sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of U.S. and Allied soldiers.

I am introducing a resolution to establish September 9 as the National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day to commemorate their valor and ensure their legacy endures for generations to come.

Eighty-two years ago, Allied forces launched Operation Avalanche, marking the start of the liberation of the Italian Peninsula from fascist Nazi occupation. This military campaign was a testament to the unyielding resolve of U.S. forces and the strength of our foreign military alliances, united by a shared commitment to democratic ideals and the fight against fascism.

The Italian campaign was not just a series of joint and allied military operations; it was a stand against despotism and a defense of the freedoms we value—an important moment in our Nation's and, in fact, in our world's history.

The Italian campaign was fought across treacherous terrain, from the shores of North Africa to the waters of Sicily, along the rugged Amalfi Coast, which ultimately led to the liberation of Rome—the first major European city liberated during World War II. U.S. forces, alongside brave and committed global Allied forces from over 10 nations, including Italian resistance brigades, faced grueling conditions, fierce combat, and severe materiel constraints. Battles such as Monte Cassino and Anzio stand as two of the most intense of the war, costing countless lives.

Today, fewer than half a percent of the more than 16 million Americans who served in World War II are still living today. The veterans of the Italian campaign, including my father SSG Raymond Moran of the 603rd Armament Maintenance Battalion are dwindling in number. My father dedicated 2 years of his life to the liberation of Italy, repairing rifles and other small arms weapons under the regular threat of attack to make certain U.S. forces were equipped to win.

I am joined in this resolution by my colleague from Florida Senator RICK SCOTT, whose father also served in this campaign, in recognizing the personal and collective sacrifices of these heroes.

The Italian campaign spanned 602 days, culminating in the surrender at Caserta, just north of Naples, on April 29, 1945, when nearly 1 million Axis troops capitulated—the largest surrender of German forces at that point in the war. The following day, Adolf Hitler's death marked the collapse of the Nazi regime—a turning point made possible by the military operations comprising the Italian campaign.

This resolution acknowledges the tremendous and significant cost of the Italian campaign, with hundreds of thousands of U.S. and Allied casualties, many of whom rest in the serene and

pristine American cemeteries across Italy.

Our resolution reaffirms that the victory was driven by an unwavering force of will, ironclad military alliances, and the enduring power of democratic values and principles that remain vital in today's global conflicts.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in honoring the memory of those who fought and died in the Italian campaign, to salute the surviving veterans, and to recognize the families who carry on their legacy. Let us designate September 9 as "National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day" to ensure their sacrifices are not forgotten and are memorialized here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and 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.

HONORING OFFICER SUZANNE O

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I join people on Maui and across Hawaii in honoring the life and service of Maui Police Department officer Suzanne O, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on August 15, 2025.

Over the course of her service with the Maui Police Department, Officer O protected the Kihei and Wailuku communities with honor and an abiding commitment to helping others. She went above and beyond to support her colleagues and neighbors, volunteering for duty during busy periods and supporting the dispatch team even on her days off. Fittingly, she was remembered by those who knew and worked with her as a compassionate and dedicated servant to her community.

In times of crisis, Officer O demonstrated remarkable courage and integrity. Her bravery was beyond measure, and she was duly awarded a Certificate of Merit for her heroic efforts during the fires in Upcountry Maui in August of 2023. Officer O's generosity and sacrifice were an example to everyone, and they will not be forgotten by her fellow officers whom she stood shoulder-to-shoulder with or the communities she so valiantly served.

I extend my deepest condolences and heartfelt aloha to the family and loved ones of the late Officer O. May her memory be a blessing.