

from the Nimitz Library of the United States Naval Academy, including "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou;

Whereas at least 20 books remain suspended from the shelves of the United States Naval Academy;

Whereas grants administered by the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other Federal agencies have been terminated or revoked for using language related to race, gender, and LGBTQ+ identity or addressing social inequality; and

Whereas the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education has claimed book bans are a "hoax," ended investigations of alleged discrimination related to book banning, and fired the staff person in charge of addressing the book banning crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferating threats to freedom of expression in the United States;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting the freedom of expression of writers that is protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution and the freedom of all individuals in the United States to read books without government censorship;

(3) calls on local governments and school districts to follow best practice guidelines when addressing challenges to books;

(4) calls on local governments and school districts to protect the rights of students to learn and the ability of educators and librarians to teach, including by providing students with the opportunity to read a wide array of books reflecting the full breadth and diversity of viewpoints and perspectives;

(5) calls for the return of all books removed from Department of Defense schools and libraries under executive orders since January 2025; and

(6) calls for the repeal of executive orders and rescission of directives that have enacted content-based and viewpoint-based restrictions on the freedom to read and learn in United States public schools and libraries.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3927. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3928. Mr. GALLEGO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3927. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Depart-

ment of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. IDENTIFICATION OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ENGAGED IN CROWD CONTROL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Federal law enforcement officer" means—

(A) an employee or officer in a position in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government who is authorized by law to engage in or supervise a law enforcement function; or

(B) an employee or officer of a contractor or subcontractor (at any tier) of an agency in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government who is authorized by law or under the contract with the agency to engage in or supervise a law enforcement function;

(2) the term "law enforcement function" means the prevention, detection, or investigation of, or the prosecution or incarceration of any person for, any violation of law; and

(3) the term "member of an armed force" means a member of any of the armed forces, as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, or a member of the National Guard, as defined in section 101(3) of title 32, United States Code.

(b) REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal law enforcement officer or member of an armed force who is engaged in any form of crowd control, riot control, or arrest or detention of individuals engaged in an act of civil disobedience, demonstration, protest, other activity protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or riot in the United States shall at all times display identifying information in a clearly visible fashion, which shall include—

(A) for a Federal law enforcement officer, the Federal agency and the last name or unique identifier of the officer; and

(B) for a member of an armed force, the service branch and the last name or unique identifier of the member.

(2) PROHIBITION ON COVERING OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—A Federal law enforcement officer or member of an armed force may not tape over or otherwise obscure or conceal the identifying information required under paragraph (1) while the officer or member is engaged in any form of law enforcement activity described in paragraph (1).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(1) provide any new authority or expand existing authority for members of an armed force to engage in law enforcement activity; or

(2) affect existing law regarding the deployment of members of an armed force for law enforcement activity.

SA 3928. Mr. GALLEGO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 922, add the following:

(h) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a pilot program for de-

ploying microreactors at United States military installations to strengthen energy resilience and reduce reliance on vulnerable civilian grids.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 3:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an open hearing on nominations.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Shane Reader,

who is a legislative fellow in my office, to be granted floor privileges for the duration of his fellowship.

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Matthew Sheffield, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

HONORING CHARLES RILEY AND TRIBUTE TO BRETT STASSI

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, on Monday evening, a tragedy occurred at the courthouse building in Plaquemine, LA. Captain Brett Stassi, Jr., of the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office, the son of the Parish Sheriff, Sheriff Stassi, and Deputy Charles Riley were shot by a suspect they were booking in connection with a sexual assault case.

Here, you see their pictures.

The two officers were taken to the hospital. Deputy Riley, a 6-year veteran of the Iberville Sheriff's Office, husband and father, died.

Captain Stassi, I am told, has undergone several surgeries and is in critical but stable condition.

A tragedy like this reminds us that law enforcement officers put their lives on the line for us every single day. We can never take that for granted.

Deputy Riley gave his life protecting our community booking somebody for sexual assault, a horrific crime—booking him, and he himself was killed, an even more horrific crime.

We pray for the close friends of both, the loved ones of both, those who grieve the loss of someone they looked up to and will deeply miss.

Our hearts are with the fellow deputies who are hurting and the whole Plaquemine and Iberville Parish community. We pray and hope for Captain Stassi's strength and full recovery and, of course, for his wife and family.

The support we get from law enforcement, their willingness to put themselves in harm's way, can never be repaid. We take it for granted until it no longer can be done so.

We support law enforcement. We support those suffering in the wake of this tragedy.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO MARY HAJEK NUGENT

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am about to list several things which are

all kind of unique. A 102-year-old woman—kind of unique—who is a naval veteran, a female naval veteran, who is now 102 and she is a Louisianan and she exemplifies the best of our State: hard work, service, and faith.

She turned—Mary Hajek Nugent—turned 102 years young this month. Born on a farm near Libuse, LA, Mary has always been a hard worker. She grew up tending vegetable gardens, a fruit orchard, and farm animals before enlisting in the U.S. Navy, building planes at a bomber plant, and serving as a parachute rigger.

For some reason, if I were a guy using a parachute, I would rather have a woman rigging it for me rather than some guy. I don't know why. But I think she would have been more attuned to the detail of making sure that when that ripcord was pulled, the guy using it landed slowly and softly and not (motioning).

After World War II, she returned to central Louisiana and devoted her time and talents to the tuberculosis unit at Pineville Veterans Hospital. She later worked at the downtown Alexandria Veterans Affairs office, where she met her husband Robert Nugent.

I am told Mrs. Nugent still greets people with a warm smile and has a deep appreciation for nature. Perhaps her habit of looking for the good in everything and in everyone is the secret to a long life, something we in Washington should adopt.

As a longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church, Mary's faith is strong, and she still wakes up every day with a smile and words of thanksgiving.

Mary, thank you for your service to our country and State. You have made Louisiana and our country a better place for 102 years. You inspire; you bless; you make Louisiana proud. Happy birthday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on Executive Calendar No. 459 be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Mascott nomination at a time to be determined between the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Thursday, October 9.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 115, S. 2296; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, cloture motions filed during Tuesday's session of the Senate ripen at 11:30 a.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session of the Senate, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. CRAMER. For the information of my colleagues, there will be three roll-call votes at 11:30 a.m. and further votes expected throughout the day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEE LIPTON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 8, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

KAREN BRAZELL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE JOSHUA DAVID JACOBS, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 16, 2025.