

implement the system for transmitting election results, which is designed to ensure transparent and timely reporting.

Since then, I have been informed that Ms. Paola did not resign and that Honduras's electoral authority—the National Electoral Council or CNE—is now implementing an updated system for transmitting election results. This is positive news, and it should reinforce public confidence in the CNE's commitment to the integrity of the elections. It is my understanding that this new electoral transmission system is considered to be more effective and secure than the systems in place during previous elections, and it should help counter efforts—already reportedly underway—to undermine the fairness of the electoral process through legal and judicial maneuvers or to manufacture an excuse by some to challenge the results of the election if their candidate loses.

On September 3, I also spoke about President Castro's failure to achieve her pledge to establish an international commission to combat corruption and impunity, and the lack of progress in bringing to justice those responsible for the murder of environmentalist Juan Lopez and others who have lost their lives defending the land and water that indigenous communities depend on. There is no doubt that part of the responsibility for the failure to establish the commission falls on the Honduran Congress, which is dominated by the National Party of former President Hernandez, whose government functioned as a criminal enterprise. But President Castro insisted this was a priority, including during her campaign, and it is disappointing that she and her government did not do more to build public support to overcome opposition in the Congress. Honduras' justice system has so far been largely incapable of bringing to justice those responsible for significant crimes of corruption and for ordering the killings of environmental defenders, other social activists, and journalists—including indigenous environmental leader Berta Caceres and members of cooperatives in the Aguan Valley, where land rights defenders continue to be targeted with violence. It is critically important that Honduras' next President reaffirms the government's commitment to such a commission and strives to make it a reality.

It is in the interest of the United States that on November 30th the people of Honduras can freely cast their votes in a fair election for the candidates of their choice. It is not the role of the United States to pick winners and losers. I hope the elections usher in a new government of leaders who are committed to strengthening the institutions of democracy, upholding the rule of law, and improving the lives and protecting the rights of the Honduran people.

#### TRIBUTE TO BERL PERDUE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Sheriff Berl Perdue, the president of the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police—FOP—who will be stepping down from leading this incredible organization after more than 13 years. Sheriff Perdue is a brave public servant who has devoted his whole career to serving and protecting Kentuckians through his roles as a police officer and sheriff of Clark County. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating my friend Berl on a job well done.

After graduating from Eastern Kentucky University in 1981 with a bachelor of science degree in police administration, Berl went on to attend the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council—KLEC—Basic Police Academy. His determination to lead and make a difference in the community was evident early on. Berl graduated as president of Class No. 141 and started his career with the Winchester Police Department in May of 1982. He joined the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police that very same month, demonstrating his high regard for the organization from the very beginning.

Not only has Berl served his fellow Kentuckians, but he has also served his fellow officers. Starting in 1991 and continuing for the next two decades, Berl served as president of the Winchester/Clark County FOP Lodge No. 34, making a name for himself by strengthening his relationships in the law enforcement community. During this time, he was also elected to serve as vice president of the Kentucky FOP, an office he faithfully carried out for 13 years. Berl retired from the Winchester Police Department in 2006 after 24 years on the force, and rising to the rank of detective sergeant.

Berl continued his service to our great Commonwealth after being elected to the office of Clark County Sheriff, taking office in January of 2007. After only 1 year in office, the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association named him 2008 Sheriff of the Year. In June of 2012, Berl's peers elevated him to the role of State president of Kentucky FOP. I have had the pleasure of becoming friends with Berl over the years, relying on him for wise counsel and frank advice for anything related to law enforcement.

In addition to leading Kentucky FOP, he also served as the 2021–2022 president of the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association, becoming the first person to simultaneously hold both positions. Berl's work ethic and commitment to getting things done allowed him to excel in both roles. His selfless spirit can also be seen in his service on the KLEC and his appointment to serve on the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board.

As Sheriff Perdue's time in this role comes to an end, I want to acknowledge and honor his work representing over 9,800 sworn law enforcement professionals across Kentucky. Berl has

shown immense dedication to others, always putting the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police first. His commitment to our great State and Nation is unwavering, and I wish him the best in this next chapter of his life. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him once more and in celebrating Sheriff Berl Perdue's career of public service.

#### TRIBUTE TO RON DERMER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Minister Ron Dermer for his exceptional service and dedication to duty as the Minister of Strategic Affairs for the State of Israel.

Minister Dermer was born and raised in Miami Beach, FL. He earned a degree in finance and management from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a degree in philosophy, politics and economics—PPE—from Oxford University.

From 2005 to 2008, Minister Dermer served as Israel's Economic Attache in the United States. Beginning in 2009, he then spent 4 years as a senior advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. From 2013 to 2021, Minister Dermer served as Israel's 18th Ambassador to the United States. Following his ambassadorship, he briefly left public service and served as a nonresident fellow at the Jewish Institute for National Security of America and later as a partner at Exigent Capital Group. In 2022, Minister Dermer returned to the Israeli Government as Israel's Minister of Strategic Affairs and a member of Israel's Security Cabinet.

Working with Minister Dermer during my time in Congress has been a great honor. He has been one of the most effective voices for the State of Israel and his extraordinary career has been defined by his commitment to fostering peace and stability within the region. I consider Ron Dermer's contributions to the U.S.-Israel relationship and security of the Jewish state to be on par with any military or political leader that has ever served the State of Israel. Furthermore, Minister Dermer has played a critical role in strengthening the relationship between the State of Israel and the United States, and I know the State of Israel has benefited from his extraordinary leadership and judgment. It is my honor to join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Minister Ron Dermer on his service to the State of Israel. We wish Ron all the best as he continues on to his next chapter.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we will soon have a voice vote on a motion to adjourn the Senate until next week. Had there been a recorded rollcall vote on that motion, I would have been a resounding "no," and I ask to be recorded as a "no" based on my strongest opposition to Members leaving town.

This is day 30 of the Federal Government shutdown. Agencies are shuttered. Important services are paused and unavailable. Countless Americans have missed paychecks because of our failure to do our job to keep the government open.

It only gets worse as this drags on.

On November 1, an estimated 42 million Americans will miss out on their monthly benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which are essential for individuals and families across the country, including countless military families in Alaska.

We have seen delays at major airports. People are canceling appointments as they cut back on expenses. Businesses are losing business they count on to keep their doors open.

None of this should be acceptable to us.

At the start of this week, I came to the Floor and asserted that we need to stay here and stay in session until we have reached agreement to re-open the government. I remain convinced of that. Instead of adjourning, we need to lock ourselves in a room and figure this out—because real people are being needlessly hurt as Members fly out for another long weekend.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Armed Services and referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

S. 3002. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 226. A resolution condemning the Government of the People's Republic of China for engaging in transnational repression.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 409. A resolution recognizing the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines and the strong bilateral security alliance between our two nations in the wake of escalating aggression and political lawfare by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1000. A bill to establish an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs.

S. 1744. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 1854. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to political and economic elites in Haiti, and for other purposes.

S. 2018. A bill to modify certain limitations and exclusions regarding defense articles and requirements regarding security assistance and sales with respect to the Republic of Cyprus.

S. 2130. A bill to make improvements to the AUKUS partnership, and for other purposes.

S. 2146. A bill to require the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate for increased transparency with respect to exchange rate policies of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2224. A bill to amend the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 to provide that the United States, in its role as a member of any international organizations, should oppose any attempts by the People's Republic of China to resolve Taiwan's status by distorting the decisions, language, policies, or procedures of any such organization, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2424. A bill to require a report of, and a strategy to combat, arms sales of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 2550. A bill to provide for international cooperation to secure critical mineral supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 2626. A bill to strengthen the leadership role of the United States at the Inter-American Development Bank, and for other purposes.

S. 2657. A bill to impose sanctions relating to the support of the People's Republic of China for the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 2684. A bill to support countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that maintain official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, to counter efforts by the People's Republic of China to coerce or pressure governments into breaking such ties, to deepen coordination with Taiwan on diplomatic, development, and economic engagement in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2918. A bill to amend the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act to improve the implementation of the seizure of Russian sovereign assets for the benefit of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2950. A bill to require the Secretary of State and relevant executive branch agen-

cies to address international scam compounds defrauding people in the United States, to hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 2960. A bill to develop economic tools to deter aggression by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan.

S. 2978. A bill to provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3075. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize rural cooperative development grants; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mrs. MOODY):

S. 3076. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permanently schedule the class of 2-benzylbenzimidazole-opioids known as nitazenes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3077. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide appropriate standards for the inclusion of a term of supervised release after imprisonment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3078. A bill to provide economic recovery payments to recipients of social security, supplemental security income, railroad retirement benefits, and veterans disability compensation or pension benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3079. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay and pay for civilian employees of certain elements of the intelligence community in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 3080. A bill to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act to address nitazene trafficking and to impose sanctions with respect to entities of the People's Republic of China and foreign governments engaged in or contributing to opioid trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEE):