

staff who have made this bill possible. I want to specifically recognize the director of the Democratic staff Elizabeth King and the director of the Republican staff John Keast. They have led their staffs and worked together with utmost professionalism.

I would also like to thank the members of the Armed Services Committee staff that have helped me directly: Jody Bennett, Carolyn Chuhta, Jon Clark, Jenny Davis, Jonathan Epstein, Jorie Feldman, Kevin Gates, Creighton Greene, Gary Leeling, Maggie McNamara Cooper, Mike Noblet, Chad Johnson, John Quirk, Andy Scott, Cole Stevens, Meredith Werner, Isabelle Picciotti, Brittany Amador, Sofia Kamali, and Noah Sisk.

Also, let me thank the floor staff and the leadership staff. You have been part of this process for the last several months, and you have done a remarkable job. We thank you for that very, very much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO GENE DODARO

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise to recognize the extraordinary public service of U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, who will retire this month after a remarkable 52-year career at the Government Accountability Office. Comptroller General Dodaro spent more than half of his career in leadership roles, including 9 years as Chief Operating Officer, before his confirmation in December of 2010 as Comptroller General. During his tenure, he has shaped GAO into the high-performing organization that we rely on every day here in Congress.

Comptroller General Dodaro helped build an impressive team of scientists, cyber security analysts, and other experts to provide reliable and timely information to Congress on rapidly developing fields like artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

He has worked with Congress, across multiple administrations, on major management reform initiatives, and he directed the first-ever audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Federal Government.

I can speak personally about the indispensable role that Comptroller General Dodaro and the GAO staff have played in providing support to me and to my staff, especially in my work on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. It is not just me that can attest to Comptroller General Dodaro's leadership. GAO is consistently ranked as one of the best places to work in Federal Government, a testament to the professionalism, the reliability, and the honesty that he has embodied as Comptroller General.

It is absolutely critical that the next Comptroller General embody these same values. They must be professional and fair, willing to call balls and strikes, regardless of which party occupies the White House. They must uphold the values of independence and

nonpartisanship, and they must be ready to manage a diverse and multidisciplinary workforce.

Congress relies on the GAO to help safeguard taxpayer dollars from fraud, waste, and abuse across Federal programs, often seeing a return on investment of over \$100 for every dollar invested in the GAO.

They provide expert testimony on a range of issues, and the reports identify problematic and operational improvements to the Federal Government. I look forward to working with Leader THUNE, my HSGAC counterpart Chairman PAUL, and the other members outlined in statute to initiate the appointment process and identify a suitable candidate to fill the very big shoes of Comptroller General Dodaro.

He leaves a legacy of tremendous credibility, integrity, and independence at the GAO, and I think it is critical that we work together in a bipartisan fashion to preserve an indispensable role that GAO plays as part of the legislative branch, helping to protect taxpayer dollars and hold the executive branch accountable.

I commend Comptroller General Dodaro for his decades—his decades—of outstanding public service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Comptroller General Dodaro for his dedicated service to us and to the American taxpayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote start immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 concur in the House amendment to S. 1071, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Joni Ernst, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, Deb Fischer, Thom Tillis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort

Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, 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 Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 76, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 647 Leg.]

YEAS—76

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

NAYS—20

Bennet	Markey	Schatz
Booker	Merkley	Smith
Cantwell	Murphy	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Padilla	Welch
Kim	Paul	Wyden
Lee	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—4

Ernst	Schiff	Warnock
Moran		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 20.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Message to accompany S. 1071, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill.

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Thune amendment No. 3961 (to the House amendment to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3962 (to amendment No. 3961), to change the enactment date.

Thune motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune amendment No. 3963, to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3964 (the instructions (amendment No. 3963) of the motion to refer), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3965 (to amendment No. 3964), to change the enactment date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the motion to refer falls.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS COLLECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1510 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. 1510) to amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to strengthen the powers of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, 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. 1510) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and was passed, as follows:

S. 1510

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 “Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Reauthorization Act”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFYING THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE REVIEW BOARD.

(a) CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD PRESUMPTION OF RELEASE.—It is the sense of Congress that all records of the Federal Government and State and local governments concerning civil rights cold cases should—

(1) carry a presumption of immediate disclosure; and

(2) eventually be disclosed to enable the public to become fully informed about the history surrounding the cases.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 3 of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115–426) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Upon request of a State or local government to the Review Board, the Review Board may reimburse the State or local government in full for any expense incurred by the State or local government for digitizing, photocopying, or mailing a civil rights cold case record for the purpose of transmitting such record to the Archivist for inclusion in the Collection.”.

(c) TRANSMISSION TO COLLECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS IN POSSESSION OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—Section 3(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115–426) is amended by striking “, except in the case of a State or local government”.

(d) NO APPLICATION OF SECTION 552(B)(6) TO CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1990.—Section 9(a)(2) of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115–426) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “, except in the case of information contained in a civil rights cold case record created on or before January 1, 1990.”.

SEC. 3. CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD EXTENSION OF TENURE.

Section 5(n)(1) of Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115–426) is amended—

(1) by striking “7 years” and inserting “11 years”; and

(2) by striking “7-year period” and inserting “11-year period”.

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, in the summer of 1962, in Albany, GA, an effort was underway to desegregate the city, and a young woman named Marion King, participating in those efforts, carrying in her arms her 3-year-old daughter and 5 months pregnant at the time, was brutally beaten for demanding the desegregation of Albany, GA. That was July of 1962.

Just this week, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution announced that the Cold Case Records Review Board, whose purpose is to investigate civil rights cold cases—the beatings, the killings and lynchings, the intimidation; cases that were never investigated and never solved, especially in the Deep South, especially in the State of Georgia during the civil rights movement—that review Board will soon release the full investigative files from the beating of Marion King in Albany, GA, in July of 1962.

There is no expiration date on justice. And Mrs. King—who was a Spelman College graduate, married to a prominent Albany civil rights organizer, Slater King—she still deserves justice, and the work of the Civil Rights Cold Case Review Board is helping take a step toward justice in this case.

In 2022, Senator CRUZ and I worked together to pass into law a bipartisan bill that extended the work of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, this vital work pursuing justice in cases that were swept under the rug, some of the most brutal crimes in our Nation’s history targeting Black Americans in the American South in the Jim Crow era and during the civil

rights movement. We passed that bill in 2022.

I am grateful for the unanimous, bipartisan support of the Senate tonight in passing the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Reauthorization Act. The Senate has just passed this bill, which Senator CRUZ and I, again, have offered to continue this vital work pursuing justice in civil rights cold cases.

As divided and bitter and hateful as American politics is today, for the U.S. Senate—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—to stand together with one united voice demanding justice for the victims of these civil rights crimes is a much needed breath of fresh air.

We must continue working for justice for these victims, for these survivors, for these families—especially the families of those who were killed—and continue our work to safeguard civil and human rights in the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HOEVEN. 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.

REMEMBERING SISTERS OF MERCY PAT AND JOANN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this year, Pope Leo XIV asked us to reflect on chapter 25 of Matthew’s gospel. This passage details the questions that will be posed to determine the contents of a person’s soul. They will be asked, “How did you receive the foreigner? Did you welcome him or not?” At this moment of judgement, I know two people who would feel confident in their answer: Sisters of Mercy JoAnn Persch and Patricia Murphy. So well-known among immigration groups that they were known simply as “the Sisters,” these two women collectively spent nearly two centuries doing God’s work here on Earth. Sadly, both sisters passed away earlier this year, leaving a legacy of strength, kindness, and grace.

Sister Pat was born on April 20, 1929, in Chicago, and Sister JoAnn was born on June 27, 1934, in Milwaukee. Although both women entered the Sisters of Mercy in Des Plaines at a young age, their paths would not converge until they both arrived to teach in Fox Point, WI. This meeting of two kindred spirits sparked a decades-long advocacy effort that began in the 1980s.

That was a period of violent upheaval in Central America’s Northern Triangle. Civil wars and conflict in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras were displacing thousands of people every month, and many of these refugees came to the United States to avoid persecution. But once these immigrants arrived in America, many of them