

with Israeli Arabs. All that in face of a successful young start-up nation with an incredible record of progress, including the recent Abraham Accords. These contradictions highlight the complex Jewish condition with some million Israelis living abroad, mainly in North America, begging soul-searching inquiry. Israel's small size and more opportunities abroad are salient factors along with the historical Jewish wandering gene.

The author perceptively points out that the long Jewish tradition to ponder the past on a weekly basis with the discussed study of various interpretations of the Torah, maintained the bond with the people's past, but lacked the necessary alternative scenarios, and particularly arousing ones for the future's sake, and thus former mistakes were repeated with fatal consequences. Passig regards a certain sickness of self-destruction to be responsible for the misfortunes that befell the Jewish people throughout its history, though surely other weighty factors are at play such as Israel's geo-political strategic location which lures empires and superpowers as well as a nation's willingness to risk much for the sake of its ethos and ideals beyond the drive for mere survival, and even finding divine justification for its predicaments whether through punishment or reward. The Talmudic teaching (Pesachim 87b) that exile fulfills God's purpose which is beneficial for both Israel and the world at-large is a case in point. It can be argued also that in the nuclear age it is too dangerous to have all Jews concentrated in one place. The current model is of a sovereign Jewish state with a viable Diaspora, mainly American, along its historical antecedents, supports and nourishes each other for the entire Jewish people's sake and survival.

Faithful to his conclusion for the need to present a shocking future scenario serving to wake up to the possibility that Israel's future as an independent Jewish state is not guaranteed, Passig describes a wild scenario—one of the offered options by Future Studies scholars—beginning with an Israeli civil war in the 40's of the 21st century, over unbridgeable disagreements between the political left and right on basic issues such as the Law of Return, the Jewish Nation State Law, the annexation of parts of Judea and Samaria and rioting between Jews and Arabs around the Western Wall and Temple Mount. The violent escalation of internal conflicts accompanied by a costly Israeli military incursion toward Syria's Damascus, ultimately resulting at the 22nd century's end in only 20 percent fearful Jews among some 30 million mostly hostile Arabs. Once a flourishing Israeli Jewish state faces the tragic fate of its previous two Jewish Commonwealths.

While he praises the Reform rabbis for turning away from their anti-Zionist stance in 1937, he shares his disappointment with those ultra-Orthodox rabbis who remained opposed to the Jewish state with Rabbi Shach even blaming the Shoah (Holocaust) as divine punishment for accumulated Jewish sins. The traditional approach holding God in charge of human affairs, does not solve pressing dilemmas that require human responsibility which the Zionist movement's revolution exemplified. Passig is also critical of those rabbis who refused to follow protective measures during the Corona crisis in Israel and generally reject the authority of the sovereign Jewish state. He views American Jewish disunity for the failure to bomb the railroads leading to Auschwitz during World War II. The long exile promoted text replacing territory though territory was preserved in the text, while Islam favored territory first.

The author advocates for Israel's urgent need to formulate a briefly declared covenantal mission statement to unify the Jewish majority along with its minorities around a common theme, while serving to highlight its uniqueness in the community of nations. Passig is concerned that Israel is not yet fully accepted as a separate nation. Whereas the United States' motto is "Personal Freedom" and the European Union's, "Unity in Diversity," he suggests that Israel should be defined by, "The Public's Freedom" in a binding and intricate system of its individuals' interconnectedness. However, Passig may be overstating the impact of a shortly stated national goal as the most critical force behind a nation's success or collapse in history's long-run. Finding a common theme for Jews and Arabs in Israel, indeed a desired aspiration, faces enormous challenge given the complex Jewish-Arab equation.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is a member of the Holocaust's surviving remnant of European Jewry.

HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOUGALOO NINE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and legacy of a group of people whose actions helped move the state of Mississippi closer to justice. They are known as the Tougaloo Nine.

On March 27, 1961, nine students from Tougaloo College made a decision that many would have been too afraid to make. They walked into a whites-only Jackson Municipal Library and quietly took their seats to read. They understood the risk. In Mississippi at that time, that simple act could lead to arrest or worse. But they did it anyway, because they believed in something bigger than fear.

These students were not acting on impulse. They were disciplined, thoughtful, and committed to nonviolence. They had been guided by leaders like Medgar Evers and others who believed that real change required both courage and strategy.

When law enforcement arrived and told them to leave, they refused. They were arrested, jailed, and later convicted. Still, they did not back down. Their actions sent a message that access to knowledge, to public spaces, and to opportunity should not be determined by the color of your skin.

For too long, the story of the Tougaloo Nine has not received the recognition it deserves. But their impact is clear.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Tougaloo Nine helped lay the foundation for progress that would later be reflected in laws like the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I often say that progress comes because people are willing to stand up, speak out, and, in this case, sit down for what is right. The Tougaloo Nine showed us what that looks like.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 65th anniversary of their bravery, their sacrifice, and their lasting contribution to the ongoing fight for equality and justice in this country.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 27

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session at 11:00 a.m. in SD-G50.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-138

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Education.

SD-124

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Darrell Owens, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.

SD-419

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior. SD-366

10:15 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations. SH-216

2 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on the Constitution
To hold hearings to examine Protecting American Citizenship III: Denaturalization and its Constitutional Limits. SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Nuclear Security Administration. SD-124

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine Biden Health Officials and COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Signals. SD-342

2:45 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the American Entrepreneurship for 250 Years: Driving Innovation, Growth, and Opportunity. SR-428A

4 p.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 749, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, S. 1127, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for memorial headstones and markers furnished by

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998, S. 3000, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify and report instances of disability benefit questionnaire fraud, S. 3098, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information about conditions and cohorts the Department of Veterans Affairs is considering for purposes of establishing or removing presumptions of service connection regarding toxic exposure, S. 3170, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement an automated system with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3286, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 3311, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in peer review for quality management of care conducted by the Veterans Health Administration, S. 3395, to expand the telescreening mammography pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3591, to require the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop a notice detailing benefits available to veterans, and to require employers to display such notice, S. 3647, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to address bowel and bladder care needs for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, S. 3653, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, S. 3706, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of produce prescriptions to veterans, S. 3726, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, S. 3988, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to offer annual preventative health evaluations to veterans with a spinal cord injury or disorder and increase access to assistive technologies, S. 3992, to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify authority for the Joint Medical Facility Fund of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3993, to amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate

those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, S. 3999, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women's specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, S. 4043, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans, S. 4108, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial and funeral expenses paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of death from a service-connected disability, S. 4140, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs schedule for rating disabilities, S. 4197, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program under which the Secretary shall award grants to certain State entities to expand access to structured outdoor recreation programs for veterans that enhance veteran wellness, S. 4220, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Novel Therapeutics, an original bill entitled "Optimizing the VA Workforce for Veterans Act", an original bill entitled "Veteran Acquired Brain Injury Caregiving Act", and an original bill entitled "Maternal Health for Veterans Act".

SR-418

MAY 13

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
To receive a closed briefing on cyber operations and readiness for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025 and the first quarter of fiscal year 2026. SVC-217

MAY 14

8 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold closed hearings to examine the posture of the United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session in SD-G50.

SVC-217