

a U.S. Senator. So that, by itself, identifies who he is.

Long before he got here, he had to prove that he was a U.S. citizen and that he was otherwise eligible to run for the U.S. Senate. When he ran for the Senate in the State of Ohio, he had to provide that documentation to the elections personnel there. He had to show up the day he voted and prove who he was.

He has had to prove who he was even since he has been elected. He had to produce an election certificate from his State's chief elections authority before he could come here.

Then when he started here, he had to produce an ID, as every employee has to provide to the new employer, whatever, starting a new job.

And he had to prove to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Senate that he is, in fact, the same BERNIE MORENO who was elected to the U.S. Senate from the State of Ohio.

You have to go through all those steps before you get to wear one of these pins. And without being able to wear one of these pins and be sworn in, you can't vote here.

And the people who vote for you in most States represented by most Senators—including most Democrat Senators—have also had to show who they are.

It is not too late for us to get this done, nor is it too much for us to ask the American people to do that which they have to do every single day—sometimes many times in the same day—to show that they are who they claim to be.

Our right to vote, our most sacred incident of U.S. citizenship, requires nothing less.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO TOM LEE

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute today to Judge Tom Lee, who has recently assumed inactive status after more than 40 years on the Federal bench. Judge Lee was appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District Court of Mississippi. He would go on to serve as chief judge from 1996 to 2003 and as chief judge he oversaw the implementation of the Case Management and Electronic Case Filing System, a system still used by the Federal Courts today. Early in Judge Lee's career prior to this appointment, he was a legal stalwart in his native Scott County serving as county prosecutor, youth court judge, and city of Forest municipal court judge—well, maybe referring to his hometown of Forest as a city is

a bit of a stretch. Preceding Judge Lee's legal career beginnings in his hometown, he graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1965 and served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a captain in the JAG Corps from 1965–1973.

The respect Judge Lee earned during more than four decades of judicial service has no limit. A defining characteristic of Judge Lee's remarkable career is his deep commitment to applying the law fairly and impartially. However, not only has Judge Lee earned a strong reputation for applying the law fairly, but he is also known to have done so with humility, courtesy, and integrity. Highly regarded for his strong intellectual ability too, these qualities have earned Judge Lee the deep admiration of so many legal professionals who have witnessed his service on the bench. Throughout Judge Lee's career, lawyers, litigants, law clerks, court reporters, court employees, and fellow judges have all praised his outstanding character in how he handled matters before his court.

During his time on the bench, Judge Lee has presided over a number of high-profile cases. His most recent high-profile case was the “Goon Squad Case” in March of 2024. It was one of the most challenging and closely watched criminal cases in Mississippi's recent history. Consistent with Judge Lee's career, he approached that responsibility with fairness, careful deliberation, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law. Judge Lee's work on that case serves as an example of the strong integrity and judicial temperament that has defined his career.

So many members of Mississippi's legal community have been influenced by Judge Lee. I am certain their careers have been enhanced by Judge Lee's legacy and follow the example he set as it applies to their own professional circumstances. Judge Lee's legacy will undoubtedly continue long after his years of active judicial have concluded. The State of Mississippi is blessed that Judge Tom Lee is one of our own as is our Nation's judicial system as a whole.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. KRISTINA SAWETZ-GLASENER

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, along with my colleague Senator MIKE CRAPO, we join in honoring Dr. Kristina Sawetz-Glasener, Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, for her devotion in serving children and families across the Washington, DC, area. We thank her for facilitating a hands-on interactive session with the Senate Moms group.

Dr. Kristina Sawetz-Glasener is the owner of her own private practice, the Creative Counseling Center of Northern

Virginia, LLC. She simultaneously serves the community by working on grant-funded initiatives in preschools and nonprofits. Dr. Kristina is the NOVA Regional co-chair for the Virginia Association for Play Therapy and was awarded the 2026 Play Therapist of the Year by the Virginia Association for Play Therapy.

With over 15 years of experience, Dr. Kristina has continually dedicated herself to the community by providing invaluable mental health services to children and families. She earned her doctorate from Lesley University in expressive therapies, and her doctoral research utilized sandtray and creative arts to aid siblings of children with cancer in communicating their lived experience. Dr. Kristina is a mother of two and understands the demands impressed upon working mothers.

Our staff lead the Senate Moms group, a bipartisan group of more than 200 moms employed by the U.S. Senate. The group's regular meetings and internal resources in the Senate help working moms feel united and supported in navigating the Senate workplace and raising children in the Washington, DC, area.

Thank you, Dr. Kristina, for your inspiring work to ground and connect them to what truly matters by exploring their experiences as working mothers. You have set an excellent example for the many moms who help keep the U.S. Senate functioning day-to-day. We wish you the best in all the future offerings you.●

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION FIREFIGHTERS

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the service and bravery of the hundreds of Georgia Forestry Commission personnel, volunteers, and paid firefighters who worked to suppress wildfires that ravaged over 50,000 acres in south Georgia this year.

Since April, these fires forced hundreds of families from their homes across south Georgia. Combined, the Highway 82 Fire and Pineland Road Fire have destroyed over a hundred homes.

State officials have said both fires are now fully contained, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of the Georgia Forestry Commission. Hundreds of volunteer and paid firefighters have been working around the clock to stop these devastating fires to protect our communities.

Since 1921, the Georgia Forestry Commission has provided leadership, service, and education to protect and conserve Georgia's forest resources, including defending our State from over 2,300 wildfires annually. These firefighters have now added another chapter to this proud legacy, defeating these unprecedented fires with professionalism and dedication under the leadership of GFC director Johnny Sabo.

With gratitude for their service, as Georgia's U.S. Senator, I recognize and

commend these Georgia Forestry Commission personnel, volunteers, and paid firefighters for answering the call once more on behalf of the State of Georgia.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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 appropriate committees.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2913. An act to authorize support for Ukraine, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4084. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diflufenican; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 12795-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4085. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlormequat Chloride; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13187-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4086. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Epyrifenacil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13187-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4087. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluoxapirolin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13253-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4088. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management

Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13412-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4089. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cinnamaldehyde in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance" (FRL No. 13411-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4090. A communication from the Acting Chief, United States Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to designation of an acting officer and a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, United States Office of Government Ethics, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4091. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4092. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-342, "Fair Housing Practices Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4093. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-343, "Langston Slater Surplus Declaration and Disposition Approval Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4094. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-345, "Nonprofit Services Preservation Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4095. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-346, "Support, Opportunity, Unity, Legal Relationships (SOUL) Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4096. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-347, "Background Check Adjustments Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4097. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-348, "Powering Local Utility Guidance in Housing Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4098. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-358, "Motor Vehicle Insurance

Modernization Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4099. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-349, "Certified Business Enterprise Program Compliance and Enforcement Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4100. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-350, "Volunteer Services Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4101. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-351, "Strengthening Probate Administration Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4102. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-353, "Reservoir District Tax Exemption Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4103. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-344, "Enhancing Consumer Protection Procedures Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4104. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-352, "DC Water and Sewer Authority Billing and Disconnection Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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 Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5032. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to require justices, judges, magistrate judges, or bankruptcy judges and their spouses and dependent children to place certain assets into qualified blind trusts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5033. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to create a right of public access to certain records relating to the courts of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5034. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase data transparency for supplemental benefits under Medicare Advantage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 5035. A bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947 to require the Federal Government to produce a national resilience strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.