

say that the President should never ever personally benefit from a conflict overseas. You can say that the President of the United States should not sell access to White House statements. It would make a big difference for our democracy and for the American people, who are paying through the nose for the cost of this war, if you did.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LUMMIS). The Senator from Florida.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY RAYMOND TELLEZ FERRIOL

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, today, I have the honor of rising in recognition of a true Florida hero.

I know we hear a lot these days about entire political parties adopting platforms that want to defund and abolish the police, but in Florida, we do it a different way—an entirely different way. In fact, we watch what other crazy places are doing, and we just do the opposite, and it has worked out quite well.

One of my favorite parts of my job as a U.S. Senator now, after having been the Florida attorney general and having worked with law enforcement for many, many years, is to spotlight Florida's brave law enforcement heroes when they do something uniquely heroic. It shows why a free society operating under the rule of law has to have brave men and women to answer a call and stand on a line to bravely serve us. Today, it is an honor to recognize Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Raymond Tellez Ferriol with the Florida's Finest Award.

Earlier this year, Deputy Tellez Ferriol saved the lives of three young girls.

Many people know Florida is a peninsula. We are surrounded by the ocean. On this particular day, there was a rip current that was very close to shore. If you have lived in Florida for any time or even if you have traveled to Florida, you know that rip currents can be incredibly deadly, pulling even expert swimmers out to sea very quickly.

On this day, it was supposed to be a time of fun in the Sun, but it almost turned deadly when three young girls got caught in a very strong rip current and were struggling to stay above water and get back to shore.

Deputy Tellez Ferriol was on patrol in full uniform, just going about his day protecting Floridians. He heard bystanders screaming for help. He immediately ran over, and without hesitation, he went into the water to rescue these three young girls. He grabbed flotation devices and started swimming. Thankfully, he was able to get them back to shore safely, as in this area, the strong rip current was really pushing all of them out. It was because of his bravery and his quick thinking that these girls are still alive.

While this instance had a happy ending, it is worth reminding Floridians and everyone heading to Florida—and we know there are many moving to Florida. It doesn't matter where I go in the Nation; someone I talked to just

had a family member move to my home State and is one of my new constituents. But it is always important to remind everyone who lives in Florida or who visits our State's beaches of the hidden dangers of rip currents. There have already been eight confirmed deaths due to rip currents since the start of this year in Florida. So we always advise folks to swim with a partner, to consider swimming when there is a lifeguard on duty, and to identify and know what each beach warning flag means.

But today is about recognizing Deputy Tellez Ferriol. He was there that day because he was serving his community as a guardian, as someone who signed up to put his safety behind the safety of others.

I, for one, am incredibly honored and incredibly thankful that there are people like Deputy Tellez Ferriol and others who answer the call so bravely to serve others as their profession. Law enforcement officers do so much every day to keep us safe, and it is always such a joy to highlight those who show exceptional bravery and save lives.

Today, I recognize one of Florida's finest, Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Raymond Tellez Ferriol.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and 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.

USMMA ATHLETICS ACT OF 2026

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 434, S. 3266.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3266) to support the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "USMMA Athletics Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§51329. Support for athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy

"(a) CORPORATION FOR SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.—

"(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Transportation may establish, in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, a corporation (in this section referred to as the 'corporation') to support the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

"(2) OWNERSHIP.—All stock of the corporation shall be owned by the United States and held in the name of, and subject to be voted by, the Secretary.

"(3) PURPOSE.—The corporation shall operate exclusively for charitable, educational, and civic purposes to support the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

"(b) CORPORATE ORGANIZATION.—The corporation shall be organized and operated—

"(1) as a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

"(2) in accordance with this section; and

"(3) pursuant to the laws of the State of New York, its articles of incorporation, and its by-laws.

"(c) CORPORATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

"(1) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—The members of the board of directors of the corporation shall serve without compensation as members of the board, except for reasonable travel and other related expenses for attendance at meetings of the board.

"(2) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may authorize employees of the Department of Transportation to serve, in their official capacities, as members of the board of directors of the corporation—

"(i) for the sole purpose of providing oversight and advice to, and in coordination with, the corporation; and

"(ii) who may not participate in the day-to-day operations of the corporation.

"(B) LIMITATION.—Employees serving as a member of the board of directors pursuant to an authorization under subparagraph (A) may not hold more than one-third of the directorships.

"(C) APPLICABILITY OF LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—An employee serving as a member of the board of directors shall be subject to the limitation on compensation under paragraph (1).

"(D) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register an authorization under subparagraph (A) of an employee of the Department of Transportation to participate as a member of the board of directors.

"(d) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter the corporation into contracts and cooperative agreements for the purpose of supporting the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

"(2) SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTS.—Notwithstanding section 3105 of title 41, United States Code, a contract or cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (1) may be a sole-source contract, subject to section 3304(a) of such title.

"(3) ACQUISITIONS.—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, a cooperative agreement under this section may be used to acquire property, services, or travel for the direct benefit or use of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

"(e) LEASES.—For the purpose of supporting the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, the Secretary may rent or lease to the corporation any real property located at the United States Merchant Marine Academy—

"(1) under such terms and conditions as are deemed advisable;

“(2) for a period not exceeding 5 years;

“(3) so long as such real property is not required for immediate use by the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

“(4) so long as all proceeds from such rental or lease be retained and expended in accordance with subsection (j).

“(f) SUPPORT SERVICES.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—To the extent required by a contract or cooperative agreement under subsection (d), the Secretary may provide support services to the corporation while the corporation conducts support activities at the United States Merchant Marine Academy only if the Secretary determines that the provision of such services is essential for the support of the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

“(2) NO LIABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES.—The provision of support services under paragraph (1) may not result in any liability for the United States to the corporation.

“(3) SUPPORT SERVICES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘support services’ includes utilities, office furnishings and equipment, communications services, records staging and archiving, audio and video support, and security systems, in conjunction with the leasing or licensing of property.

“(g) TRANSFERS FROM NONAPPROPRIATED FUND OPERATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may, subject to the acceptance of the corporation, transfer to the corporation all title to and ownership of the assets and liabilities of the Department of Transportation nonappropriated fund instrumentality, the function of which includes providing support for the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, including bank accounts and financial reserves in the accounts of such fund instrumentality, equipment, supplies, and other personal property.

“(2) LIMITATION.—In making a transfer under paragraph (1), the Secretary may not transfer any interest in real property.

“(h) ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept from the corporation funds, supplies, and services for the support of the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

“(2) EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION.—For purposes of this section, employees or personnel of the corporation are not employees of the United States.

“(3) FUNDS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES.—The Secretary may charge fees for the support of athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy. To support the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, the Secretary may accept funds from the National Collegiate Athletic Association, funds from athletic conferences, game guarantees from other educational institutions, fees for ticketing and licensing, and any other consideration provided incidental to the execution of the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

“(4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that contributions under this subsection and expenditure of funds pursuant to subsection (j) do not—

“(A) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Department of Transportation, or any employee of the Department of Transportation, to carry out any responsibility or duty of the Department in a fair and objective manner; or

“(B) compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of Transportation, or any individual involved in such a program.

“(i) TRADEMARKS AND SERVICE MARKS.—

“(1) LICENSING, MARKETING, AND SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENTS.—Subject to paragraph (2), a contract or cooperative agreement under subsection (d) may, consistent with section 109(h)(2) of title

49, United States Code, include an authorization for the corporation to enter into licensing, marketing, and sponsorship agreements (subject to the approval of the Secretary) relating to trademarks and service marks identifying the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The corporation may not enter into any licensing, marketing, or sponsorship agreement pursuant to authority provided under paragraph (1) that—

“(A) may reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Department of Transportation, or any employee of the Department of Transportation, to carry out any responsibility or duty of the Department in a fair and objective manner; or

“(B) the Secretary determines involves the use of trademarks or service marks that would compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of Transportation or any individual involved in such a program.

“(j) RETENTION AND USE OF FUNDS.—Funds received by the Secretary under this section may be retained for use to support the athletic programs of the United States Merchant Marine Academy and shall remain available until expended.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: Chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, is amended

“51329. Support for athletic programs of United States Merchant Marine Academy.”.

(c) LICENSING AUTHORITY.—Section 109(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) LICENSING OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—

“(A) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may license trademarks and service marks owned or controlled by the Secretary with respect to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and may retain and expend fees received from such licensing in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) DESIGNATED MARKS.—The Secretary shall designate the trademarks and service marks with respect to which the Secretary will exercise the authority to retain licensing fees under this paragraph.

“(C) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall use fees retained under this paragraph for the following purposes:

“(i) For payment of costs incurred by the Secretary of securing trademark registrations and of operating the licensing program under this paragraph.

“(ii) For support of athletic programs and recruiting activities of the United States Merchant Marine Academy under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, to the extent (if any) that the total amount of the licensing fees available under this section for a fiscal year exceed the total amount needed for such fiscal year under paragraph (1).

“(D) AVAILABILITY.—Fees received in a fiscal year and retained under this paragraph shall be available until expended.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the terms ‘trademark’ and ‘service mark’ have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 45 of the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly referred to as the ‘Trademark Act of 1946’; 15 U.S.C. 1127).

“(F) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the USMMA Athletics Act of 2026, the Secretary shall issue guidance to implement a trademark and service mark licensing program under this paragraph.”.

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, 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 committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3266), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SPACE COMMERCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 198, S. 434.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 434) to establish the Commercial Space Activity Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Space Commerce Advisory Committee Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Office of Space Commerce.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(3) UNITED STATES ENTITY.—The term “United States entity” means—

(A) an individual who is a national of the United States (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))); and

(B) a nongovernmental entity organized or existing under, and subject to, the laws of the United States or a State.

SEC. 3. COMMERCIAL SPACE ACTIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a Commercial Space Activity Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the “Committee”).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of representatives from a variety of space policy, engineering, technical, science, legal, academic, and finance fields who have significant experience in the commercial space industry, which may include previous Government experience.

(B) LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the Secretary may not appoint as a member of the Committee any employee or official of the Federal Government.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may appoint as a member of the Committee a special government employee (as defined in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code) who serves on 1 or more other Federal advisory committees.