

(2) recognizes the 2025 Oklahoma State University men's cross country team for its hard work and dedication to the sport and for the excitement it brings to Oklahoma State University, the State of Oklahoma, and to Cowboy fans everywhere.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I first ask unanimous consent that my legislative fellow Molly Sanders, a proud Navy lieutenant, be granted floor privileges for the duration of her fellowship with my office.

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

DISABLED VETERANS HOUSING SUPPORT ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 224 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 224) to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. THUNE. 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 (H.R. 224) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONGRATULATING THE OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEN'S DIVISION I CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 575, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 575) congratulating the Oklahoma State University men's cross country team for winning the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Division I Cross Country National Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 575) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive Session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 503; that the nomination be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7034:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Christopher C. LaNeve

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that Senator WHITEHOUSE or his designee be recognized to make a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 290, S.J. Res. 86 and, if made, the Senate vote on the motion to proceed at 2 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further to business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of my colleagues.

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

The Senator from Arizona.

ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, today marks 5 years since January 6, the day a violent mob attacked the U.S. Capitol in an effort to overturn a free and fair election and disrupt the peaceful transfer of power. It was not a protest. It was not a misunderstanding. It was an assault on our democracy.

I was there that day, as many of my colleagues were. I remember the pounding on the door of the House Chamber. I remember seeing staff stacking chairs against these doors to stop the mob from entering. I remember helping evacuate the floor as a mob was taking over the Capitol, and I remember looking around thinking about my family and whether we would make it out safely. That day left scars on this institution, on our democracy, and on the men and women who put themselves in harm's way to defend it.

I served in the U.S. Marine Corps. I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and I know what it means to take that oath seriously, not just in uniform but in life, which is why I will be offering an amendment to the Defense appropriations bill to ensure that military funeral honors remain reserved for those who have defended the Constitution, not for those who have sought to overthrow it.

Last year, the administration offered military honors for Ashli Babbitt. Ashli Babbitt was not a hero; she was part of the violent mob that tried to overturn our democracy. She ignored repeated lawful orders from Capitol Police. She pushed to the front of the crowd. She helped to smash a window into the Speaker's Lobby and attempted to force her way through a barricaded door while she was armed

with a weapon. She did not die defending her country; she died trying to tear it down.

Military funerals are sacred. They are reserved for those who upheld their oaths, who defended the Constitution and the rule of law. To grant those honors to someone who participated in an attack on this Capitol would dishonor every servicemember who actually served to uphold that oath.

I have seen real sacrifice. I have buried marines who gave their lives in protecting others. That is honor. Those who serve are expected to uphold military standards even after they leave service. When you violate the law and betray your oath, you forfeit the privilege of having military honors.

If we equate the January 6 insurrection with genuine sacrifice, we cheapen everything our servicemembers have done in the defense of this country. We erode trust in our military, and we feed the dangerous lie that January 6 was anything other than a betrayal of our democracy.

Taxpayer money should not be used to provide a military funeral to someone who took part in an attack on this Capitol. This is about accountability. It is about honoring those who have truly served with integrity, and it is about making clear, 5 years later, that we will not rewrite the history of January 6.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to remember the men and women who have defended this country honorably—those who upheld their oaths, who protected our democracy—and those who continue to serve with courage and sacrifice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, today is January 6, 2026. We are 6 days into what will surely be a defining year for our Nation. We will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. We will hold midterm elections. Americans will determine the control of Congress.

But while there is much to look forward to on this cold winter night, I find myself transported back 5 years ago to January 6, 2021.

Over the last 5 years, a lot has been shared about the events of that day. It has been distorted, romanticized, even downplayed. But as they say in the play "Hamilton," "It matters who lives, who dies, who tells your story."

For me, a lot has changed since 2021. Five years ago, I didn't carry the title I proudly carry today. No, not Senator, although, I am proud. It is grandmother.

Today, I rise here on the Senate floor to tell my story, not just for the history books but for my granddaughter Lennox and all of the young people of this country. It is a story of sorrow, fear, and loss, love, hate, and betrayal. But it is also a story of redemption, bravery, and resilience.

On January 6, I was a Member of the House of Representatives. Joe Biden had just been elected. Kamala Harris was just about to become the first woman and first person of color to serve as our Vice President. I was ready to watch history.

Because we were in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, only a few Members of the States contesting the election results could be on the House floor. The rest of us were able to sign up for 1-hour shifts in the House Gallery.

I remember it like it was yesterday. I remember that night choosing what outfit to wear. I remember taking two pairs of boots with me to work. I ended up wearing the more comfortable ones, not knowing I would soon be running, ducking, and crawling on my hands and knees for safety.

I remember signing up for the first shift to watch from the Gallery. There was never a second shift. Not long into the proceedings, I saw the leadership and my colleagues whisked off the House floor. An announcement was made that the Capitol had been breached.

I sat stunned. And as they were taken to safety, I realized they forgot about us trapped up in the Gallery. We could hear the sounds of yelling and banging on the Chamber doors. We ducked for cover and were instructed to get the gas masks out from under our seats—gas masks that we didn't even know existed, that we did not know how to open or use.

And I remember my friend, former Congresswoman Val Demings of Florida grabbing my arm and locking eyes with me and saying: LISA, there is only one who can get us out of this.

And I began to pray.

People say that right before you die, your life flashes right before your eyes. In that moment, I saw history flash before mine. I saw the peaks and valleys of our American story. I saw slavery, reconstruction, Jim Crow. I saw a Trail of Tears, women locking arms marching for the right to vote, two World Wars, 9/11, the murder of George Floyd, and a global pandemic.

I saw the history of our Nation and the path that we had traveled to get us to this moment, and I prayed.

I recalled a piece of Scripture that tells us "all things work together for the good," even the bad, because despite the violence, despite the trauma, despite how close we were to losing our democracy, brave men and women stood up to protect this institution, and we will never ever, ever forget them.

We, the Congress, came back in the wee hours of the morning to do our jobs, to certify the results of a free and fair election. It was a moment of redemption. And redemption is part of what makes America America because whenever we falter, there are "shoulders to the till" who push us forward, who remind us of the values upon which our Nation was founded so that we can "come back stronger."

I find myself thinking about those foundational values a lot these days, and a specific phrase from the preamble has risen above the rest, that we are to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

The Founders used the common phrasing of the time where churches spoke of bestowing blessings of knowledge or faith. We, the United States, would bestow the "Blessings of Liberty" and not just for ourselves but for our posterity for future generations, for our children and our children's children, for my granddaughter Lennox.

But "securing the Blessings of Liberty" isn't just a promise, it is a call to action because while liberty is a blessing, it requires work to maintain, work that we have strayed away from many times in our history.

Five years after January 6, we are faltering once again. From efforts to dismantle the Department of Education and the EPA to the weaponization of the Department of Justice, to active efforts to strip birthright citizenship, the Federal Government is losing its ability to protect many of the blessings of liberties we have come to expect as Americans.

But this isn't new. We have seen this before. In the late 1800s, formerly enslaved people gained new rights—many Americans did. The 13, 14, 15 Amendments enumerated these rights. But without enforcement, they became no more than ink on paper.

I believe we are repeating history. There are some more focused on tearing down than building up. But here is the thing, you can tear down the East Wing of the White House, you can put your name on buildings, or try to tear down this very Capitol Building itself like was done 5 years ago, but our democracy is built on more than just bricks and marble. Ours is a democracy built on the values of liberty and justice for all, on the premise of freedom, on the ideals of equality and independence, and on our pioneering spirit of innovation.

Ours is a story of redemption. This very room that I am standing in is a testament to our system of governance, a room built by enslaved people where Lennox's grandmother now has the privilege to serve as a duly elected Senator.

When our democracy expands, when it breathes, we inch closer to those divinely inspired ideals of our founding documents and to truly securing the "Blessings of Liberty."

This is the story of America I want to pass on to my granddaughter, a story of courage and bright hope for a democracy that endures. But again progress isn't inevitable. It is a choice, and it requires effort.

In 2025, we let the aisle between our parties stretch to a chasm, but it is a new year and it is a new day and we must come together to choose progress to move forward to protect our democracy and patch the holes in our Republic, punctured by the few to spite the many.