

If they actually believed that, they would respect the fact that the American people voted for this, that they voted for deportations. I know that in the “woke” left world, that is a dirty word. It is not where I come from, not in Missouri. People believe in common sense. They don’t think you should get to break the law like that and get away with it.

So I don’t know when—you know, I guess we will be back here in a week or something, but the reality is not going to change no matter how much CHUCK SCHUMER tries to villainize ICE agents. No matter how many times I hear my colleagues from the other side try to stir up people, it will not change this very basic reality: We have front-loaded money for deportations, and those deportations will continue, and there is nothing you can do about it.

Now, if you want to make a proposal to stop that, put it on the floor. You will lose, but I want them to know and also my colleagues that I am 100-percent committed to this. It is central to the idea of being a sovereign country. No sane country in the history of the world would do this. By the way, in speaking of heading over to Europe, ask them how mass migration is working out for them. They have done it, and it isn’t working.

So, if you have got any advice coming back from that side of the Atlantic, I am not really interested on this topic or on censorship. Maybe you can deliver the message that they ought to step up for their own defense of their own continent in a more meaningful way. Now, that might not make you popular over there, but that is the message that I delivered when I went over last year.

But as it relates to illegal immigration, the deportations will continue, and I hope the American people understand that the people who just voted to defund ICE are sipping champagne in Europe, bad-mouthing the United States of America’s foreign policy. That is who they are. That is the reality.

This debate will continue. But as far as I am concerned, Republicans, we should be playing offense here. Let’s strengthen our immigration laws. Let’s treat this as seriously of a problem for our country as it really is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Missouri.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 656; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in

order to any of the nominations; 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 nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard, and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Jo-Ann F. Burdian
Rear Adm. Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr.
Vice Adm. Nathan A. Moore
Rear Adm. Douglas M. Schofield

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MORNING BUSINESS

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROTESTS IN BAHRAIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this month marks the 15th year since the people of Bahrain took to the streets to peacefully protest oppressive practices by the Bahraini Government and champion democratic reform in their homeland. As protestors engaged in civil disobedience, the Kingdom of Bahrain brutally repressed its citizens, claiming the lives of dozens, and injuring hundreds. Despite 15 years passing since Bahrainis demanded their leaders enact reform, the country continues to engage in systematic human rights abuses against its citizens. I will continue to stand in solidarity with the Bahraini people for as long as it takes to achieve accountability and ensure the fundamental rights of Bahrainis are upheld.

The Government of Bahrain continues to impose restrictions on expression, assembly, and association. During the first 6 months of 2025, there were 37 documented violations against activists, writers, and internet users.

Even after 15 years, Bahraini elections are neither free nor fair, and authorities systematically exclude and repress opposition voices. The government continues to bar former members of the opposition parties from running for Parliament or sitting on boards of governors of civil society organizations.

The Bahraini Government restricts religious freedom, resorting to state violence against its Shia population. In July 2025, during an Ashura commemoration, Bahraini authorities launched a campaign of arrests and summonses, violently targeting 60 citizens.

Despite significant releases of political prisoners since 2024, many continue to be arbitrarily detained, including those with a connection to the 2011

protests. Twenty-six individuals remain on death row despite credible allegations of torture during their interrogations and unfair trials. In April 2025, authorities detained 22 citizens. Several were linked to peaceful activism or suspected of intending to organize demonstrations. They were forcefully taken during raids at their homes, workplaces, or in public spaces. This sharp increase in detentions appears to be a preemptive effort to silence dissent, sending a chilling message to citizens engaged in peaceful opposition.

During the United Nations’ periodic review, the United Nations Committee Against Torture stated it remained concerned about consistent reports indicating people in detention are subject to torture and ill treatment. The Government of Bahrain continues to block internationally recognized human rights organizations from visiting the country, leading to a lack of oversight that enables abuses to be carried out with impunity.

The Bahraini Government has had 15 years to enact real change to ensure the fundamental rights guaranteed by its constitution and international agreements are upheld. Still, after all these years, the Government of Bahrain has yet to fulfill its promises of reform.

The United States must hold Bahrain accountable and to a high standard of human rights and rule of the law, as we should do with all of our allies. Security cooperation must go hand-in-hand with respect for human rights and democratic reform. The United States-Bahrain relationship is strongest when we champion shared values of good governance and fundamental rights.

I renew my call for the Government of Bahrain to end its efforts to silence peaceful opposition, to stop its persecution of citizens, and to release all political prisoners who are serving unjust sentences for their defense of human rights.

And I call on the Trump administration and, in particular, Secretary Rubio to take these human rights concerns seriously and demand substantive reform and greater accountability from Bahrain.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MATTHEW J. JEMMOTT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I submit this statement for the RECORD to recognize an extraordinary leader, patriot, and servant of our Nation, COL Matthew J. Jemmott, U.S. Army, on the occasion of his retirement following an exceptional 30-year career in service to our country. Colonel Jemmott’s distinguished career is a testament to his resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the ideals of military service.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, and raised in New York and Pennsylvania, Colonel Jemmott began his military journey as an infantryman in the

Pennsylvania National Guard. In 1999, he graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, earning a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice, and was commissioned as a military police officer. Throughout his career, Colonel Jemmott served in leadership positions ranging from platoon leader to Joint Task Force commander. His assignments took him across the globe, including Fort Bragg, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Italy, Germany, and Cuba. He deployed to Kosovo and Iraq and served two tours at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including as the Commander of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, leading over 1,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and coastguardsmen. Colonel Jemmott's expertise extended beyond tactical operations to the critical realm of congressional affairs. Selected for the Army's Congressional Fellowship Program, he served in the Senate for 15 months, addressing issues such as defense, veterans' affairs, foreign policy, and appropriations. He later served as an Army legislative liaison, managing portfolios that included soldier equipping and wheeled tactical vehicles.

In his final military assignment, Colonel Jemmott served as the legislative assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and director of legislative affairs for the Joint Staff. In this role, he operated at the nexus of military strategy and legislative policy, providing critical guidance that shaped national defense priorities and strengthened civil-military relations. His strategic foresight and diplomatic acumen were instrumental in securing congressional support for key defense initiatives, budgets, and policy reforms.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. ELIJAH WASHINGTON

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Elijah Washington, a native son of South Carolina, who dedicated his life to healing bodies and nurturing souls in Beaufort County.

Dr. Washington, who passed at the age of 83, exemplified the highest ideals of service to his community and country. Rising from humble beginnings in Sheldon, SC, he pursued excellence in education at Morehouse College and Meharry Medical College before embarking on a medical career that would touch thousands of lives.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Washington made a choice that would define his legacy when, after serving in the U.S. Navy, he returned home and served the people of rural Beaufort County with the Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services. At a time when malnutrition and healthcare disparities plagued these communities, Dr. Washington answered the call.

Not only did he deliver more than 10,000 babies during his career in Beaufort County, for almost a decade, he was the only obstetrician-gynecologist at the clinic in Sheldon. Dr. Washington's impact extended beyond the delivery room. When he joined the staff at Beaufort Memorial Hospital, he rose to become chief of staff and played a critical role in integrating the hospital's medical staff. He mentored countless young physicians, setting an example by treating every patient with dignity and compassion. Today, the BJHCHS clinic in Sheldon bears his name, a lasting testament to a man who made a difference in the Lowcountry.

In addition to the medical field, he also lived out his calling in ministry. He not only tended to the physical ailments of the community, but as the pastor at First African Baptist Church on St. Helena Island, he tended to people's spiritual needs as well.

South Carolina has lost a giant, and I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Dr. Washington's family and in celebrating a life extraordinarily well-lived in service to others.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN KILLEEN

• Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I commend Robin Killeen for more than 26 years of dedicated service to her community. The residents of Mississippi's gulf coast are better off because Robin has creatively and persistently extended a hand to those in need.

A Pearl River County native, Robin Killeen devoted her career to meeting the staffing requirements of various companies. In 1999, she turned her talents in another direction. Robin founded Women of Wisdom, an organization that helps women uplift one another up through their faith, fellowship, and service. Since Robin launched Women of Wisdom, it has become a pillar of strength and wellbeing in south Mississippi.

It is in Robin's nature to continue improving. She has expanded the resources offered by Women of Wisdom to include "The Care Closet," a wardrobe filled with free clothing available to women in times of financial need. Robin has also pursued a holistic vision for uplifting Mississippi women, including a wellness group that improves physical, spiritual, and mental wellbeing. She has also extended the reach of her nonprofit by partnering with others in the Mississippi community, including Advocates for Freedom and Women's Resource Center. Through this collaboration, she is able to help men, women, and children in need.

As impactful as her work with Women of Wisdom has been, Robin has gone even further, embracing leadership roles in several community organizations. She has served as executive president of the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Jackson

County Chamber of Commerce, as ambassador chairperson for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, and as a leader with the Unified Coast Prayer Movement.

Robin moved to the coast in 1986 and currently resides in Gulfport, MS, with her husband Pat Killeen. They are proud parents of two children and are thrilled to dote on five wonderful grandchildren.

Robin Killeen's unrelenting dedication to community service represents the best of our State. I join my fellow Mississippians in thanking her for a quarter-century of meaningful contributions and lasting impact.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3705. An act to provide for the creation of a congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 261. An act to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to prohibit the Secretary of Commerce from prohibiting, or requiring any permit or other authorization for, the installation, continued presence, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have been authorized by a Federal or State agency.

H.R. 3617. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to secure the supply of critical energy resources, including critical minerals and other materials, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5616. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$2.50 numismatic coins, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 72. Joint resolution relating to a national emergency by the President on February 1, 2025.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 72. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1383. An act to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.