

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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE
EDUCATION DAY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 626, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 626) designating March 6, 2026, as "National Speech and Debate Education Day".

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, 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. 626) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH
5, 2026

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 5; that following the prayer and the 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 6644.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. For the information of my colleagues, we expect a vote on reconsideration of cloture on the motion to proceed to DHS appropriations at approximately 1:45 p.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

IRAN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the human cost of war. There is a real and a deep and a lasting cost to every armed conflict, to every war, one paid by brave men and women around the world and by the people who love them; one also paid, all too often, by civilians, by families, by those considered collateral damage.

But before we launch our Nation into an intentional war of choice, we should only ask our Armed Forces members—our soldiers, sailors, our airmen, our marines—to take on the risks and the loss of war if we are sure why.

It is clear today we are engaged in a war in Iran. The Trump administration doesn't seem to be able to agree amongst themselves why. What is the scope, what is the mission, what is the duration, what is the cost that so many may need to bear?

At the outset, President Trump was talking regime change and urging Iranians to rise up against the brutal and oppressive regime of the mullahs and the Ayatollah. Now they are not mentioning regime change.

Recently, Secretary Rubio and Speaker JOHNSON said Israel forced our hand, and then Trump said: No, no. We forced theirs.

There has been talk of taking out their navy, of going after ballistic missile launchers, of preventing the resurrection of a supposedly obliterated nuclear weapons program—but without real clarity.

After months of planning, allegedly, there are hundreds and thousands of Americans in the region—civilians,

diplomats, families—in harm's way with no clear path to evacuation. Our Embassies and consulates are being bombed and attacked, a number are closed, and there has been no compelling explanation of the urgency, of why this was imminent, of why this body, this Senate, couldn't carry out its constitutional role and authorize this war.

I represent Delaware. The Dover Air Force Base in the center of our State, in our State capital, is where every American who falls in service to our Nation first returns to our soil. And Dover has the honor, the sacred duty, to carry out and support what are called dignified transfers, when planes with dead Americans in flag-draped transfer cases first come off the back of a C-17 to a waiting family and an honor guard.

I have stood on the flight line at Dover next to President Trump, President Biden, President Obama, and a whole range of senior military officers as we have witnessed this grave, solemn duty. I was last there in December with President Trump and the two Senators from Iowa as we witnessed those Iowans who had fallen in Syria, and I soon hope to return to be able to join in witnessing and honoring the homecoming of CPT Cody Khork, SFC Noah Tietjens, SFC Nicole Amor, and SGT Declan Coady.

There are two more Americans fallen so far in this war whose names have not yet been released. All four I just named are from Iowa.

I am so grateful to the men and women of AFMAO, the Armed Forces Mortuary Affairs Operations unit, and to Fisher House, a nonprofit, funded special place for the families of the fallen on the grounds of Dover Air Force Base, where those who have just learned of their deep loss are hosted.

These are special missions and special places—the volunteers from our community at Fisher House, the servicemembers who staff and support AFMAO, the folks at the Personal Effects Depot who do an incredible job preparing the remains of the fallen for return to their home States for burial, the members of the Chaplaincy Corps, the military liaison officers who help comfort and engage and support the families. It is the very least we could do as a nation to respect and to honor our brave and bold who volunteered to be a part of the greatest military in the world.

I am always grateful when other Members of this body join for these dignified transfers, and in the last year, two Senators from Illinois, two Senators from Georgia, as well as Members of the House, have come and joined in these strikingly often ceremonies.

There is a sound that a mother and a widow make when they first recognize the movement of a flag-draped coffin holding the remains of their loved one that you can never unhear. And that presence, that sound, that grief, that keening into the wind should be on the

heart of every Senator, of every American leader, as we vote on whether or not to commit our Nation's Armed Forces to war.

I come from a family with a long record of military service, back to our Nation's first war. My brother, my sister-in-law, my father, and my uncles all served. I grew up in a home where my father's veteran friends visited and where I knew my brother would follow in my father's footsteps. It seemed to me just a part of American life. And it is, in my view, a great blessing to represent 10,000 servicemembers and their families who are stationed at Dover Air Force Base and to have had the opportunity to visit and to fly and to support the crews of the C-17s and the C-5As based at Dover and to see how much they have done around the world to reequip and support our troops, to support our partners and allies, to deliver badly needed relief. In the case of disasters, they carry out an incredible mission.

I can only imagine the heartsick feeling of knowing on the news that there are six fallen Americans but not yet knowing who and wondering if that terrible knock will come on your door, whether in Dover, DE, or any other American base.

We should be careful about opening a door into chaos in the Middle East when we can't see the other side of it. We should not take our men and women into war without clear plans, without clear purposes.

With our bases now under continuous fire, our President talked casually the other day about how he has been through so much. He has refused to rule out sending boots on the ground to Iran, has made it clear he understands there will be casualties—maybe many, many more—and says that death in war is just part of the way it is.

These six fallen so far and two dozen more severely injured have sacrificed for our Nation.

Those honored dead gave the last full measure of devotion for us, and we owe them and their families that same respect.

Earlier today, just 2 hours ago on this floor, we voted on whether to proceed to a War Powers Resolution, and I voted yes. I voted to rein in this reckless war of choice. At the very least, what we owe our servicemembers is a debate, a public briefing, an explanation, an accounting of why this war and what its ends are.

Just last week during the President's State of the Union Address at the other end of this building in the House Chamber, I sat respectfully as President Trump spoke for nearly 2 hours on every imaginable subject, but he spent just 3 minutes on Iran.

For the strengths and weaknesses of President Bush and the approach that led to the Iraq war, I will at least say this: There was briefing after briefing, debate after debate, and a vote in this Chamber to authorize that war as the Constitution requires.

That is not happening now. It is not happening here, and it should.

So to the families of the fallen, to the men and women of our Nation who are in that 1 percent who serves and stands in harm's way, know that your Nation mourns with you and honors you. Proverbs teaches that:

The memory of the righteous is a blessing.

We hold the memory of these beloved fallen in our hearts, and I pray that the Lord will comfort those who mourn, bind up their wounds, and heal their heartbreak. I pray that God grants us all the grace to find a path forward together where more do not needlessly join those who have already fallen in this new war in the Middle East.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

KEVIN WARSH, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JEROME H. POWELL, TERM EXPIRING.

KEVIN WARSH, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2026, VICE STEPHEN MIRAN, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD IN THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ARNOLD RIVERA-SANCHEZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. PAUL A. LUCCI, JR.
COL. SCOTT C. VALLEY

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 4, 2026:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR 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., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEVEN M. MARKS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JEFFERSON J. O'DONNELL

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANDREW M. NIEBEL

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHELLE L. WAGNER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. SETH E. ANDERSON
COL. ROBERT B. FINNERAN
COL. EDMUND B. HIPPI
COL. ANDRE M. INGRAM
COL. LANCE J. LANGFELDT
COL. REGINALD J. MCCLAM
COL. DANIEL J. SKUCE
COL. JOSHUA M. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ERICA R. AUSTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 9435:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES M. VALPIANI

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOHN I. ALORA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF PETER J. DYRUD, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ERICA E. TORTELLA, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDRE L. MONEV AND ENDING WITH PHILIP P. SPITZER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MEGAN E. GAGNON, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS J. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW D. VANMAASDAM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JAYDEE A. BURNS, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KURT L. KAISER AND ENDING WITH SHANE W. OWEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LISA A. BALLAS AND ENDING WITH BRADLEY R. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANAH L. AUTRY AND ENDING WITH JOHN J. VALDES III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHELLE J. BISHOP AND ENDING WITH MARESA Y. ZORRILLA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSE D. CASH AND ENDING WITH LISA T. SEYMOUR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TARIN C. GRISWOLD AND ENDING WITH TAL M. ZIV, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER M. CONK AND ENDING WITH MARIA M. VASILE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DANIELLE D. POYANT, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS M. BEACHKOFSKY AND ENDING WITH BRIAN S. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF AARON J. HAYES, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAROLE S. LOWE AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA D. WYTE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. LEACH, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JILL E. BURKETT AND ENDING WITH GREGORY S. SELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER L. BINGCANG AND ENDING WITH PETER T. TRAN,