

nation's "multidimensional diplomatic efforts."

"Of course, the Turks always like to have some existence in the area, because they feel they are a power in the area. And nowadays they are," Alftise said. "They were, of course, in the Ottoman Empire, and now they are trying to have a new history there."

AT THE CROSSROADS OF CRISES

Risks posed by Libya's fractured state and the presence of foreign actors are compounded by instability in neighboring nations—some of which can be traced back to the initial shock of Qaddafi's sudden downfall and the subsequent vacuum of power.

The collapse of Libya in 2011 sparked a major influx of arms and fighters through the Sahel, with ethnic Tuareg fighters who once fought on both sides of the Libyan Civil War staging a 2012 uprising in Mali. This was followed by an explosion of Islamist insurgency, including groups linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, that is spreading across the region today.

To the southeast, Haftar's troops have been accused of aiding the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces against the Sudanese Armed Forces in the civil war that first erupted in Sudan in 2021. The Government of National Unity has further alleged that Haftar supported the Rapid Support Forces with fuel transfers backed by the United Arab Emirates, though UAE officials have repeatedly rejected direct involvement in Sudan's civil war.

The conflict in Sudan is considered to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis today, driving millions of people out of the large African nation. Many of these refugees from Sudan and others fleeing conflicts and harsh conditions elsewhere in Africa find their way to Libya, taking advantage of the country's disunity and unpatrolled borders to embark on a treacherous trip across the Mediterranean to Europe.

Nearly 60,000 people survived the journey and another 1,500 are known to have perished in 2025 alone, according to the European Union's Frontex border security agency, which identifies Libya as the primary departure point. The total number of those who fled from Libya by sea since 2011 is believed to at least be in the hundreds of thousands, with potentially more unreported.

"Europe has a big problem with the immigrants who come with ships," Sahad said. "Why do we have these immigrants? Because we could not control the borders, our southern borders. We cannot control them. We need help in that regard. We need technology."

"We cannot control the vast borders in the south, but with technology, you can, and Europe is not giving us that help," he added.

Yet there's hope Washington may be able to step in here, as Sahad believes this is another thing the United States can help us with, and do so with a promise of reciprocal benefits.

"We're not saying that we are demanding or asking, but also Libya will give the United States the energy, and we will give their states the stability of that region," Sahad said. "If Libya is stable, then there are big advantages for Northern Africa, for Africa."

Alftise reiterated this point, arguing that, while the Government of National Unity has so far been able to keep the threat of Islamist militant resurgence in the west at bay, the lack of control over the southern border and growing jihadi infiltration of nations such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger meant U.S. support was necessary not only for safeguarding Libya, but far beyond as well.

"It's not only for the sake of Libya," Alftise said, "it's the sake of Africa and the sake of southern Europe."

UNITY FIRST

As the 15th anniversary of the uprising that toppled Qaddafi nears in February, uncertainty prevails over the nation of roughly 7.5 million people once considered one of the richest nations in Africa that has still yet to rebound from its pre-2011 economic performance.

Alftise said that "there is still a big hope that things will be okay," though he acknowledged a wave of nostalgia for Qaddafi's rule, fueled largely by social media and foreign outlets. In response, he said, "we're trying to tell the people that era has more bad things than good things."

And while the cautious calm that continues to hold has produced some positive growth in the economy and social development in recent years, so much potential is hindered by the still-unwavering split. And while the cautious calm that continues to hold has produced some positive growth in the economy and social development in recent years, so much potential is hindered by the still-unwavering split between the opposing governments.

In the east, Haftar continues to entrench his position, promoting at least two of his sons, Saddam and Khalid, to senior military positions and a third, Belqasim, as his top political adviser. Critics accuse of him emulating Qaddafi in his dynastic tendencies and strongman persona that overshadows Government of National Stability Prime Minister Osama Hammad.

In the west, Dbeibah faces not only the rival government in Tobruk and its foreign backers but also a complex array of internal factions, including Islamist forces who seek to push their own vision of Libya in backing the Government of National Unity. His leverage is further challenged by incessant clashes over Libya's oil and gas infrastructure, a backbone of the national economy that has been sapped by the dual power rivalry and rampant fuel smuggling.

Nevertheless, Dbeibah's administration continues to enjoy international recognition and his outreach to the White House has not gone unnoticed. Trump's senior adviser on Africa affairs, Massad Boulos, traveled to Tripoli in July to hold talks with Dbeibah that reportedly included a Libyan offer to forge a \$70 billion economic partnership with the U.S.

But Libya has also caught the eye of the administration on another matter often tied to Trump's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East and North Africa. In April, Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, named Libya as among six nations that could potentially join the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements through which the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco established diplomatic ties with Israel in late 2020 and early 2021.

The deals marked the first Arab-Israeli normalization pacts since those struck by Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, save for Mauritania's short-lived recognition offered in 1999 and rescinded amid a war in Gaza a decade later. Like the rest of the Arab world and many Muslim nations, Libya has never recognized Israel and has consistently expressed support for Palestinians, once constituting a major source of Palestinian militia funds and arms throughout the Qaddafi era.

Even years from Qaddafi's ouster, the Israeli-Palestinian issue remains a sensitive one for Libya. Both Alftise and Sahad said unifying and stabilizing the nation remained the first order of business before such decisions could be taken.

"The important thing for us at the moment is to revive Libya as a country with a civil government, with democracy, so we can have our country in a sovereign situ-

ation, and it could take whatever decisions built on, one, the sovereignty of the nation, and, two, the agreement of the people, because that's democracy," Sahad said. "So, this is what we are facing."

CELEBRATING PASTOR PAUL JACKSON

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable leadership and service of Pastor Paul Jackson as we honor his spiritual guidance at Jefferson Avenue Community Church. Pastor Jackson's influence extends far beyond the walls of the church, making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

As a proud Western New York native, Pastor Jackson was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. After graduating from Emerson High School, where he excelled academically, Pastor Jackson answered the call to begin his spiritual journey at Moody Bible Institute, Pentecostal Temple Bible Institute, and later earned his Bachelor's degree in Ministry from Antioch Bible College.

Pastor Jackson is supported by his beloved wife, First Lady Vivian Ann Jackson. Together, they have formed a family grounded in faith with the addition of the "second love of their lives", Bridgette Nicole Jackson. Their marriage exemplifies the strength found in a family that prays and worships together. Pastor Jackson has made a priority of reaching out to his community, serving as the Spiritual Advisor for the Canisius High School football team for nearly two decades.

As we celebrate Pastor Jackson's unwavering dedication, let us recognize the countless lives he has touched and the profound impact he has made at Jefferson Avenue Community Church and beyond. Pastor Jackson's service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of his inspired leadership.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 8

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John DeLeeuw, of Texas, and Michael Graham, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Robert Harvey, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Richard Kloster, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Admiral Kevin Lunday to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, and Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy. S-216

DECEMBER 9

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 290, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9-1-1 systems, S. 332, to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, S. 446, to prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from being designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, S. 573, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali, S. 601, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky, S. 730, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, H.R. 186, and S. 858, bills to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, S. 1088, to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, S. 1131, to establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, S. 1135, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, S. 1280, to designate six creeks in North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, S. 1353, to extend the authority for modifications to the Second Divi-

sion Memorial in the District of Columbia, S. 1377, to ensure the maintenance of a herd of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, S. 1518, to redesignate the Saratoga National Battlefield Park as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park", S. 1777, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the "Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center", S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 1926, to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, S. 2270, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2308, to amend the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, S. 2369, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove or permanently conceal the name of Francis Newlands on the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, S. 2385, to codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, S. 2546, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2708, to enhance the preservation, maintenance, and management of national historic trails and national scenic trails, S. 2970, to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of the Capitol Reef National Park, Utah, and H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. SD-366

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders. SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Education and the American Family

To hold hearings to examine building pathways, focusing on advancing workforce development in the 21st century. SD-430

3 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine balancing the interests of local radio, songwriters, and performers in the digital age. SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SVC-217

4:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine a review of the activities and fiscal year 2026 funding priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative. SD-138

DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine arms race. SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of retirement. SD-430

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine defining our healthcare problem, and principles we should follow to solve it. SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine maritime security in Africa, focusing on assessing threats to United States commercial diplomacy and national security interests. SD-419

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine running government like a small business, focusing on waste and fraud. SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine aging with purpose, focusing on the positive impact of seniors in today's economy. SH-216

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar legislation. SR-418

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of the U.S. organ procurement and transplantation network. SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Reserve's big bank welfare program, focusing on the IORB regime. SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs). SD-419