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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who forgives the sins of the penitent, create in us contrite hearts and renew a right spirit within us. Give our Senators this day, O God, peace with You that banishes fear. Help them to believe in Your power so they may be certain You are able to do for them more than they can ask or imagine. When the tasks are beyond their powers and duty calls for more than they have to give, may they find their strength in You. Make them willing to do what is painful in the short term to avoid even greater pain in the long term. Lord, give them confidence that You will protect them in the future even as You have sustained them in the past.

We pray in your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LEAHY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

LONGEST SERVING SENATOR FROM VERMONT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, it is very unusual to have one of the most senior Members of the Senate presiding and especially at this time of the day. I would say to my friend, this is how the Senator has conducted himself all the time he has been in the Senate. We had a little emergency here today. The Senator who was expected to be here was unable to make it due to the fog we have around the eastern part of the United States, and so the Senator from Vermont agreed to preside.

I say to everyone, the people of Vermont are so fortunate to have the

longest serving Senator from Vermont, a man of such quality. Those of us who work with the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY of Vermont, consider it an honor to be able to talk to him—speaking for myself, but I am sure we all feel this way—and to learn from him. I am the majority leader in the Senate, but I talk to my friend from Vermont often to get ideas as to how we handle the difficult issues of the day.

For me, as a person, I will always remember, as long as I am on this Earth, the kindness Senator LEAHY and his lovely wife Marcelle extended to my wife. As most of my colleagues know, she was in a violent car accident. Her neck was broken in a couple places and her back was broken and so she had a lot of surgery. When that was over, she learned she had breast cancer, and so she has been fighting that. Marcelle, who is a nurse, has been so thoughtful and kind to my wife, calling her often to help her work through the sickness that comes with breast cancer. So this is an opportunity for me to say something about my friend from Vermont.

I can still remember the first day we met, the first night we met in Florida. He was running for reelection and I was running for the Senate. I want the RECORD spread with the fact that I have so much confidence and appreciation for this good man who, on a minute's notice, came over to make the Senate work again. I thank our Acting President pro tempore very much.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be a period of morning business until 5 p.m. today. At 5 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3637.

What has happened—and the reason the Senator from Vermont is in the Chair—is airports in parts of the country are closed because of the fog, especially in Washington, DC. As a result, even people coming from the West weren't able to leave. The Sun might have been shining brightly there, but airplanes scheduled to come here couldn't be given a time to land. So we will have people who will not be here for our scheduled vote this evening, so we will reschedule that vote for tomorrow.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 3637 be postponed to occur at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, December 11; further, that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed, the motion to proceed be agreed to and the majority leader be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 3664

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading of S. 3664.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3664) to provide for debt limit extensions.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week the country received more good economic news. The private sector created 150,000 jobs—these are new jobs—and once again the unemployment rate fell. Unemployment is now at its lowest rate since December 2008. While too many families across the Nation are still struggling, especially in Nevada, there is no doubt our economy is headed in the right direction.

America is poised for a rebound this year if a few good things happen. The last thing we can afford is yet another crisis manufactured by Republicans in Congress just as the economy finally gains some momentum. If Republicans force a \$2,200 tax increase on 98 percent of American families and 97 percent of small businesses to protect the richest of the rich, the economy will suffer greatly.

If Republicans again threaten default on the full faith and credit of the

United States, the economy will suffer. We have seen the terrible impact of these contrived emergencies before. When Republicans threatened to shut down the government and force a default on the Nation's debt, the economy stumbled and middle-class families were in a state of peril. Who paid the price? Middle-class families.

Republicans face a real difficult choice in Congress. Will they cooperate with Democrats and put the country on a path to provide certainty for families and investors? As my friend the senior Senator from Missouri said, the Speaker has a chance to do some good things, but he also has a problem because he has to decide whether he is going to work to save his speakership or the country.

Will they cooperate with Democrats or will they force us to lurch from one crisis to the next in 2013 as they did in 2011 and 2012? We need long-term solutions, not temporary fixes to problems that dragged down the economic recovery over the past 2 years.

The House should take up the Senate-passed middle-class tax cut which provides lasting security for families and businesses making less than \$250,000 a year. The number of Republicans calling on the Speaker to allow a vote to give middle-class families confidence their taxes will not go up has grown. Speaker BOEHNER could end this suspense with just one vote.

Over the weekend, the junior Senator from Tennessee, Mr. CORKER, joined a number of Senate Republicans and more than one dozen House Republicans in calling for that vote. Senator CORKER, admitting Republicans have little leverage in this faceoff, said: "I actually am beginning to believe that is the best route for us to take."

Democrats agree sending the Senate-passed tax cut to President Obama's desk is the quickest and most sensible way out of this crisis. But avoiding the fiscal cliff is no excuse for Republicans to replace this artificial crisis with another one.

Congress should also pass Senator MCCONNELL's proposal to end periodic standoffs over the debt ceiling. His plan would give President Obama the authority to avoid default on the Nation's bills without a protracted fight. Senate Democrats are ready to vote on the minority leader's sensible suggestion at any time, but first Senator MCCONNELL needs to stop filibustering his own legislation.

Right now, Speaker BOEHNER and Minority Leader MCCONNELL are the only ones standing between Congress and compromise. It is time for them to prove to American families they are more interested in protecting the middle class than pleasing the tea party.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING
SENATORS

BEN NELSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to honor our colleague the senior Senator

from Nebraska, BEN NELSON, upon his retirement from the Senate. This will become effective after the first of the year.

For 12 years, BEN has been a valued member of the Democratic caucus and an exemplary Senator for Nebraska and the country. But his life in public service dates back to his youth. He spent his college days serving his Nebraska community in another way—as a lay minister. But eventually he chose law over ministry and went to law school. He attended law school at the University of Nebraska, where he got his bachelor's and master's degrees.

He spent many years practicing insurance law. He served as director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance and as president of the Central National Insurance Group. Then, in 1990, he was elected Governor of Nebraska. Four years later, he was reelected—with almost 75 percent of the vote—to become the first Nebraska Governor in 20 years to win a second term. So it was not a surprise when he ran for the Senate in 2000. He won, even though President Bush took Nebraska handily.

It is easy to see BEN NELSON truly possesses the same independent spirit as his Nebraska constituents. He served his constituents with distinction in the Senate and, of course, when he was Governor and as insurance commissioner. He has always provided a strong voice for fiscal responsibility, and he has been terrific for the State's energy industry, agricultural sector, and even tourism.

Similar to many of his Nebraska constituents, Ben is an avid hunter, fisher, and outdoorsman.

As a sidelight, one of the things we learn as kids—and as we get older it is something we must adhere to—is that one should not be envious. Envy isn't something that is very becoming of human beings, especially in an adult. But I think if the truth were known, many Senators would be very envious, as I am—and I would even think the Acting President pro tempore would be—about that hair of BEN NELSON's. I mean that is a mop of real hair.

It is often people call his office and they believe he has a toupee, but it is his hair. He will pull it for you anytime just to show you it is real. I mean he has hair like a 15-year-old. So I have to acknowledge I am a little envious of his hair, and I think, if the truth were known, maybe others are as well.

My wife has said on many occasions—and she tells me this all the time—how handsome PAT LEAHY is and she is so glad he doesn't do a comb-over.

Anyway, BEN NELSON is an avid hunter, fisher, and outdoorsman. He has bagged pheasants and turkey, and one time, to the consternation of all of us, he decided he was going to take Senator SCHUMER from New York hunting for pheasants. He did that. Everybody survived it alive, and BEN NELSON still boasts about that; that he was able to bring SCHUMER back all in one piece. More important, the people who went

hunting with them all came back in one piece. The story goes that Senator SCHUMER even shot a bird or two.

A lot of us have some trouble accepting that, but that is what BEN says and I will take him at his word. He has bagged all kinds of game birds—dove, quail, pheasants, turkey—but he has also had the opportunity to hunt all over the world and has bagged some of the most exotic game that is possible for a hunter to hunt. He is the epitome of a sportsman.

BEN isn't just a great hunter, though. He is also an accomplished practical joker and a wonderful singer. That may surprise some people. In our caucus, I proved to everyone that he could sing, and sing quite well. He recorded a few years ago a song called "Western Town" to raise money for visually impaired children. He was one of a dozen Nebraskan celebrities to record songs for this charity. I obtained a copy of this and played it at a Democratic caucus a few years ago. It was a hit. He was singing—it is his voice—and it was very good. Here is how it goes:

I'm from a western town in Nebraska. Don't know why I left so long ago. All I know is this western town in Nebraska lives in my heart and in my soul.

He did a great job of that song, as he has done everything since I have known him.

I am sure BEN is looking forward to going home to the western town—Omaha—where he lives with his wife Diane. She is wonderful. She was a great first lady and a wonderful Senator's spouse. I like her for lots of reasons, the smile she has, but also she makes some of the best chocolate chip cookies I have ever eaten. They have four children and five grandchildren. As he departs for Omaha, he will be sorely missed here in the Senate.

He has always been a loyal and dedicated member of this caucus, even when he was showing loyalty by questioning the wisdom of the party sometimes. He is arguably the most conservative member of the caucus. And while there are a few things BEN and I disagree on, we agree on most everything. Through the last 12 years he has been a valued member of the team. He has made many of our accomplishments possible through his dedication to country first and State second. That is how it should be.

Edwin Chapin, a North American preacher and poet, said:

No more duty can be urged upon those who are entering the great theater of life than simple loyalty to their best convictions.

BEN NELSON lives by his convictions, even though it may put him at odds with his party or his constituents. His highest duty is to country and his conscience.

We had a retirement party a week ago tomorrow, and when it was over, I grabbed BEN and we embraced. I care a great deal about him. He has made some extremely difficult votes, but he did it because it was the right thing to do. His duty is to country and his con-

science, and I repeat, I have such high respect for BEN NELSON. I will miss him. I have enjoyed working with him.

I congratulate BEN NELSON on his career in public service, including his service in the Senate, and wish him the very best in his retirement.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate shall be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the unanimous consent order, the vote that had been scheduled will be delayed until tomorrow.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. RUBIO. We are in morning business; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

TRIBUTE TO JENNI RIVERA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, before I begin today, I know there are millions of people around the world and in this country who are mourning the loss of a singer by the name of Jenni Rivera, who was a huge star, particularly in Latin America but also in the United States. She died yesterday evening in a plane crash in northern Mexico.

Jenni was a real American success story. She was born in California to immigrants from Mexico. She started working at her father's small record label in Long Beach, CA, and she recorded from there. She made a number of top hits that made all the charts around the world. She was recently in Florida to receive a Billboard Music Award and performed at the Billboard Music Awards. We saw that on TV. My mom was a huge fan of hers—and also kind of the equivalent of "The Voice" in Mexico on the Telemundo network. She passed away last night.

Her calling card was she was a singer in a genre of music that is largely dominated by males. Yet she brought a powerful voice to that genre where she sang frankly about her struggles to give her children a better life in this country. Her death at a young age is a real tragedy. I know there are millions

of people across the country and around the world mourning her loss today. She is survived by her five children and two grandchildren.

Our prayers go out for her that God may grant her family the peace to deal with this difficult circumstance.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I come here on December 10, Human Rights Day. I want to briefly discuss human rights because, I would just say, while we have made great advances around the world in the cause of human rights, there are still a lot of roads to travel. Today is a good opportunity to take note of some of the struggles and challenges around the world with regard to human rights.

The first issue I want to talk about with regard to human rights is modern-day slavery. When people think about slavery they think about the historic nature of slavery in this country or around the world. It is hard to imagine that today, in the 21st century, that there are slaves in the world. It is even harder to believe there are slaves in the United States, but the fact is there are. It has been well documented that human trafficking around the world numbers in the millions.

Of course, sex trafficking is a big part of that, a grotesque part of that, and we are all aware that it is a very serious problem. So too is forced labor-type slavery, which we find around the world and even in the United States. In fact, there is no major city in the United States that does not have an element of human trafficking and human slavery within its confines. I think it is important to understand that exists, it is real, and it is happening.

To that extent, remember there are things we are trying to do in this legislative body, in the Senate, in Washington, to deal with this issue. One of the issues we are going to have a chance to deal with soon, I hope, is reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which was sponsored last year by Senator BROWN and Senator LEAHY. Hopefully, we can finish that before the end of this year, but if we cannot, I hope early in the next Congress we will address it.

As you know, there are also reports that the State Department does rank countries around the world on the efforts they are making to deal with human trafficking, and they actually rank them in three tiers, the third being the worst, those nations not doing enough. I hope we look at how we reform the process of giving some of these countries waivers. There are countries that are perpetually on the list of the worst possible places with regard to government policy toward human trafficking. Yet they are getting waivers from the implications and the consequences of being a tier 3 country. There are countries getting that waiver every single year.

I hope we will examine the process legislatively, of how we grant those waivers, so we can have more information as to exactly why it is our government is granting waivers to other governments and other nations that are not making any advances whatsoever on human slavery and trafficking.

Another aspect we should take some time to look at is some transparency from the business community, particularly large international companies that do business around the world. We should look for ways to encourage and incentivize companies to report voluntarily on their supply chains to ensure the products we use in the United States are not the product of human slavery, modern slavery around the world. We can do that as well.

Obviously, we do not want to put any more onerous costs on our businesses, and we will be careful how we approach it, but I think it is important that we know the products sold in the United States are not directly or indirectly benefiting from slavery around the world. That is something I hope we will remember; that human trafficking and human slavery is real, it exists all around the world, and exists in our own country. I hope we will continue making strides dealing with this issue.

One last point on that is a few months ago several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the *Village Voice*, which is a newspaper in the United States, which actively—and unfortunately—advertises in its back pages, including in a site called *backpage.com*. It advertises the services of people being held against their will in those circumstances. It is outrageous to believe a major American publication continues to advertise the services of young girls and young boys, some of whom are minors, and is doing so shamelessly. I hope they will heed our call to stop that from happening. It is a massive source of revenue for that company. It is outrageous, it is disgusting, it is grotesque, and I hope more of our colleagues will join us in writing a new letter to them in continuing to call attention to this because it is simply unacceptable.

Secondly, I want to turn to the issue of religious freedom, which is another human rights cause around the world. Sadly there is not enough advancement being made in that regard. We are seeing a step backward with regard to religious liberty and religious freedom around the world.

In April of this year the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom released its latest report with some very grim news. I want to go through some of it, but it is important to understand we are not talking about the countries, we are talking about the governments. There are some governments that are aiding and abetting the persecution of unprotected religious minorities. I want to highlight some of those countries and governments. The list is long, but these are a few I wanted to point to today that are truly unacceptable.

Let's start with the People's Republic of China, which is not exactly a beacon of hope for those who are looking for religious liberty. Of course we all know the situation in Tibet, which is not just a religious issue, it is a cultural issue. We see the self-immolation of folks who are willing to burn alive because of the effort of that government to wipe out their identity. What they are going through is intolerable.

It goes much deeper than that. Proselytizing Christians and the orthodox, "nonpatriotic" Catholic Church, face significant oppression. The Chinese Government actually authorizes who the leadership of the Catholic Church can be. It is truly unique that in all the world there is a government that will tell them who their bishops are and who will run their church. If they worship outside of that setting, they are persecuted.

There are others, of course, such as the Tibetan Buddhists whom I mentioned before. Here is a report that talks about that. It is not just the religious believers who are facing persecution in China. This is from the report:

The Chinese government also continues to harass, detain, intimidate, disbar, and forcibly disappear attorneys who defend vulnerable religious groups.

Again, we need to understand that we are not talking about the people of China; we are talking about the government of China which is aiding, abetting, and allowing this religious persecution to go on. We hope with the change in leadership in China that has taken place there will be a change in attitude.

The truth is that China has much to offer the world. We hope for a peaceful, prosperous rise for the people of China. We look forward to working together with them to make the world a better place. But China cannot assume that role as long as there is no respect for religious liberties as far as these practices that are happening in that country with the direction of its government.

Of course Egypt has been in the headlines lately. I think it has been well documented that violence particularly against orthodox Christians has been high. This is from the report:

In 2011, violent sectarian attacks, targeting primarily Coptic Orthodox Christians, have resulted in nearly 100 deaths, surpassing the death toll of the previous 10 years combined.

I think the Arab spring has a lot of promise, but I think it also brings with it some warning flags. One of those warning flags is the persecution of religious minorities in places such as Egypt. So as Egypt works its way forward—and we know it has problems it is facing in its own society with regard to what kind of government and powers it needs and should have—we should keep an eye on how the new constitution, the new laws, and the new government treat religious minorities, particularly Coptic Orthodox Christians who suffered the death of 100 of their members.

Iran does not have a sterling record on human rights. Its treatment of religious minorities is particularly egregious. The violations of religious freedoms in Iran include prolonged detention, torture, and executions based primarily or entirely upon the religion of the accused. All religious minorities in Iran are at risk, but even the recognized non-Muslim religious minorities that are supposedly protected under their so-called Constitution, including Jews, Armenian, and Assyrian Christians, face increasing discrimination, arrests, and imprisonment, according to the report. So too are dissenting Muslims. They are basically Muslims who are not following the Shia line. They are being intimidated, harassed, and detained. That is the record of Iran, which has a terrible human rights record, but in particular with the issues of religious liberty.

Saudi Arabia bans any non-Muslim worship. Even private religious activities are suppressed if they are discovered. I think it is important to point that out as well.

Closer to home is the island of Cuba, which is a place, of course, because of my heritage which is close and near to our heart so we keep a close eye on what is happening there as well.

The report finds:

Serious religious freedom violations continue in Cuba . . . Violations by the Cuban government include: detention, sporadic arrests, and harassment of clergy and religious leaders, as well as interference in church affairs. The Cuban government also controls and monitors religious belief and practices through surveillance and legal restrictions.

In Russia the report finds:

The government increasingly used its anti-extremist law against peaceful religious groups and individuals, particularly Jehovah's Witnesses and Muslim readers of the works of Turkish theologian Said Nursi.

Russia is a country that is beginning to backslide on religious liberty as well.

Finally, here in this hemisphere, just as in Cuba, Venezuela. The report finds that violations of religious liberty include:

The government's failure to investigate and hold accountable perpetrators of attacks on religious leaders and houses of worship, and virulent rhetoric president Hugo Chavez, government officials, state media, and pro-Chavez media directed at the Venezuelan Jewish and Christian communities.

I think sometimes we take for granted the religious liberties we have in this country, and we should never do so. The fact is we may have some cultural divisions in America when it comes to religion, and that is not tolerable either. But one of the great things we have had in this country since its inception is the belief in religious liberty and religious freedom enshrined in our governing Constitution. It is something that is the exception rather than the rule around the world. I think our example should inspire the world in that regard, but I think we should always use our voice, our power, and our example to lead the way around the

world on this Human Rights Day on the issue of religious liberty.

Last but not least, the cause for women around the world is something that bears watching as well. Some of these issues are interrelated. When I talk about human trafficking and human slavery, a disproportionate number of those held in bondage around the world are young women and young girls.

On the issue of human rights with regard to women, there are a couple of parts of the world that are very troubling. Afghanistan comes to mind because just today we got the report that a senior advocate for women in Afghanistan was shot down by unknown gunmen on Monday. It is the latest assassination against women's rights activists in the country. Najia Seddiqi was headed to her office in the eastern Laghman province when she was shot and killed. She was the head of the Women's Affairs Department for the Laghman province. Her predecessor in that post was killed just 4 months ago. The Taliban, which many hold responsible for the attack, has not yet had a comment, but it comes just a week after a teenage girl who was volunteering at an anti-polio drive was fatally shot northeast of Kabul. The Taliban has targeted senior female officials in the past for working in the U.S.-backed Afghan Government. That is just one issue of a coordinated attack to go after women who dare to participate in the political life of the country. It goes beyond that.

There is this very troubling law in Afghanistan which the government claims to have tried to clear up. It is called running away. Basically some judges have interpreted running away as a crime. It has been used against young girls and women who run away from home because it is a home where they are being abused or a home where they are being forced to marry somebody.

There are some sad stories I want to share. A 17-year-old leapt from her roof to the streets of Kabul in an effort to avoid marriage ordained by her grandfather when she was only 9 years old. The judge who heard the case mentioned that Farima ruined her life. The judge stated in a court that the court is a place where a woman can plead for divorce or custody of her children only if and when she has five male witnesses and a husband or a fiancé who condones the separation.

This is the 21st century we are talking about. We are not reading something from history. This is happening right now. Of course we all know the story of the brave little girl in Pakistan who was shot. We hear these cases every single day. It goes on and on. I could be here for 3 hours highlighting abuses against women, against religious liberty, the abuses of human trafficking and human slavery around the world. I think what is important today on December 10, Human Rights Day, is to take a moment and understand that

the cause of human rights is not a partisan cause; it is not even a nationalist cause. It is a human cause that requires each and every one of us to raise our voice and to call attention to any time and any place where human rights are violated.

I want to congratulate the leading role this government has played in calling attention to those abuses around the world and in being honest with ourselves when these things are happening here at home. Of course, like anything else, we have to first set the example before we can lead, and that is why I think it is so important that on the issue of human trafficking and modern-day slavery that the United States have cutting-edge legislation which deals with an emerging problem that keeps changing and so the laws have to adapt to it. I hope we will take the first step in doing that by authorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act as soon as possible.

I suggest the absence a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEATH TAX

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we are in the midst of an intense debate about how to deal with the expiration of bipartisan tax relief at the end of this year.

The President and the Democratic Party campaigned primarily on raising the top marginal rates. Yet income tax rates are not the only tax policy set to expire at the end of this month. If Congress does not act, the currently low death tax rates which have previously been supported on a bipartisan basis will skyrocket. They will go from an exemption amount of \$5 million and a tax rate of 35 percent to an astonishingly low exemption amount of \$1 million and a 55-percent tax rate.

The question is clear: Where are the Senate Democrats on this issue? Again, a low death tax has previously been a rare point of bipartisan agreement. Yet this past July, my friends on the other side of the aisle proposed and passed a bill that included a tax cut extension for individuals making under \$200,000 or families making under \$250,000.

Conversely, the bill would have designated the millions of families in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Virginia, and elsewhere who make in excess of \$250,000 as rich and subject to higher taxes. Still, when it came to the death tax, this bill, which was supported by all but one Democrat in this Chamber, was silent.

In other words, that bill assumed that current death tax rates would expire—a crushing blow to America's

families and businesses and farms. This bill, which, once again, was supported by nearly every Senate Democrat, would allow the death tax to skyrocket and the exemption to be reduced to the lowest amount in over a decade, creating an administrative and compliance burden for nearly 1 million estates.

Allowing death tax policy to expire is another example of the President putting ideology and sentiment ahead of economic reality. While the death tax targets the transfer of wealth from one individual to an infinite amount of other individuals, the repercussions are felt throughout all income levels.

From a person working in the cornfields, to a cashier at a mom-and-pop store, to a gas station attendant, the long arm of the death tax affects more than the so-called wealthy. It is called the death tax not only because it is a tax imposed at a time when family members are grieving over the loss of a loved one but also because it can be a death sentence for the family businesses and farms that American workers depend on for their livelihoods.

I know a lot of my friends on the other side of the aisle understand this. Some have spoken on the floor of the Senate in favor of extending the death tax rate. Some have introduced legislation to do so.

My friend, the chairman of the Finance Committee, where I serve as the ranking member, has indicated he would like to see the current death tax regime extended. So what is the problem? Unfortunately, bare-knuckle politics is getting in the way of good policy. And the President's insistence on a \$2 trillion tax increase is undermining progress on resolving the death tax.

I have been a longtime proponent of repealing the whole death tax. Not only is it double taxation and a deterrent to savings, but it also sucks up capital in the marketplace. The death tax adds inefficiency to our economy. It is what economists refer to as dead-weight loss. In other words, it creates another burden on our free market system that prevents the full potential of economic growth.

For instance, many family farms have to purchase insurance in order to prepare for paying the death tax so they do not end up having to literally sell the farm just to pay the death tax. This added cost is embedded into the cost of goods when sold. In other words, American consumers, American workers, or Americans looking for work are those who will ultimately pay the death tax.

This past July, the Joint Economic Committee analyzed the costs and consequences of the death tax. In a report the committee found that, as of 2008, the death tax has cumulatively reduced the amount of capital stock in the U.S. economy by roughly \$1.1 trillion since its introduction as a permanent tax in 1916, equivalent to 3.2 percent of the total capital stock.

Coincidentally, since its inception nearly 100 years ago, the death tax has

raised just under \$1.3 trillion in total revenue. By comparison, that is equivalent to the U.S. Federal deficit for fiscal year 2011 alone. But that was over all those years—100 years. And keep in mind, the loss is \$1.1 trillion, and yet all it has raised is \$1.3 trillion. So think it through.

I have some news for those seeking to engage in class warfare. The death tax does not reduce income and wealth inequality. Perversely, the estate tax creates a barrier to income and wealth mobility.

In an interview this past year with the Associated Press, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan described an epidemic of sorts that is hitting our farmlands across the United States. She did not talk about rising fuel prices or droughts. Instead, Secretary Merrigan discussed how our country's farmers and ranchers are getting older and fewer young people are taking their place. I have heard time and time again that the death tax is the No. 1 reason family farms and businesses fail to pass down to the next generation.

Consider also that heirs are often forced to sell an asset of the farm in order to meet this arbitrary tax. These assets are likely generating revenue and could be a vital part of the family farm. But because of the death tax, family farms and ranches are instead forced to sell these assets or sell the farm to pay the death tax.

This chart shows just in a few States the drought-stricken farmers who are at risk for the death tax in 2013. I have chosen to show South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, California, Wyoming, and Montana. You can see the percentages.

As you can see from the chart, in South Dakota, farms over \$5 million, 15 percent, farms over \$1 million, 49 percent; in Nebraska, farms over \$5 million, 16 percent, farms over \$1 million, 49 percent; Iowa, farms over \$5 million, 15 percent, farms over \$1 million, 47 percent; California, farms over \$5 million, 11 percent, farms over \$1 million, 42 percent; Wyoming—just so I do not leave out the Intermountain West—farms over \$5 million are 8 percent of the farms, farms over \$1 million are 33 percent. Or take Montana: Farms over \$5 million are 7 percent of the farms, and farms over \$1 million, 30 percent.

We ought to repeal the death tax. I do not want these farmers to have to sell the farm to pay the death tax. It might make sense in a college social justice seminar, but it has no place in serious discussions about fiscal policy; that is, the death tax.

Recently, the Joint Committee on Taxation released an estimate on how many more taxable estates, farming taxable estates, and small business taxable estates would be affected by the increase in the death tax over the next 10 years. This chart I have in the Chamber shows that.

The numbers are astonishing. If Congress does not act, we will see more than 15 times the number of taxable es-

tates, more than 13 times the number of small business taxable estates, and a whopping 24 times the number of farming taxable estates. And to add fuel to the fire, farmers already have to recoup the economic losses incurred from the recession.

This is kicking farmers and ranchers while they are down. The recent droughts—and that is what this other chart shows—have caused an unprecedented economic hardship. If we decrease the exemption amount for the death tax from \$5 million to \$1 million, just look at how many more farms will possibly be exposed to the death tax in certain drought-stricken areas.

As you can see on the chart, that central part, shown in the real dark purple or black—whatever that is—that is the big drought area. The States shown in red are not as bad, but they still have very severe drought. The States shown in the darkened area basically are in extreme drought. They have been going through that.

According to the information compiled from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as you can see on that chart, 15 percent of the farms in South Dakota are valued over \$5 million. But look at the number of farms valued over \$1 million—an astonishing 49 percent.

Look at California: 11 percent of the farms are valued at over \$5 million, but 42 percent of the farms are valued at over \$1 million. Then there is Montana where 7 percent of the farms are valued over \$5 million but 30 percent are valued over \$1 million. Not all of these farms will necessarily be impacted by the death tax next year, but I can guarantee you that most of them will down the road.

The fiscal cliff presents us with a pivotal moment. How we tax our citizens is ultimately a question of what we stand for. With respect to the death tax, the question is whether we stand for families and jobs or whether we stand for redistribution regardless of the consequences.

We need to resolve death tax policy. We can no longer afford to put small businesses, family farms, and individuals in a position where each year uncertainty about the death tax rate and exemption amount causes them to divert income away from creating jobs and toward unnecessary death tax planning. This is important stuff, and it is not something we can just blindly or blithely wipe out.

It is time for the President to lead on this issue. The President, tellingly, said when he was running for President in 2008 that his experience running for President was one of the critical bullets on his resume qualifying him for the job. Other than writing and part-time teaching, President Obama has made a career running for office. Well, he will never run for office again, as far as he is concerned. It is time to put aside the campaign and take up the mantle of leadership. It is time to make the tough decisions necessary to get our economy moving again.

Resolving the death tax is a good place to start, and should he decide to lead, he will find partners on both sides of the aisle to join him.

As you can see from those charts, these are serious matters. To have to sell the family farm in order to pay the death tax is not a good thing or to have to borrow to keep it alive is not a good thing. To have to pay heavy insurance rates through the years to be able to pay at least something of the death tax—it may be a better way of trying to help, but it puts these farmers and their families in a real bind.

We should get rid of the whole death tax, but I do not believe our friends on the other side are willing to do that. So then the least we should do is keep the tax rate at 35 percent, with an exemption of \$5 million, doubled to \$10 million for the family. That would help a lot of these farmers keep their farms, it would help our country to still be an agriculture-related country, and it would stop voracious people from hovering over those farms, swooping them up at low rates.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

FAST VOTING ACT

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, like millions of Americans, on November 6, just over a month ago, on election day, I stood at the polls and I cast my vote, and then when I got home I stayed up late to see the results come in. I was still awake when President Obama delivered his acceptance speech. In those remarks, he said:

I want to thank every American who participated in this election, whether you voted for the very first time or waited in line for a very long time. By the way, we have to fix that.

There is so much we have to fix. It was 11:38 p.m. on the east coast when the Associated Press called the election for President Obama, but Andre Murias, an 18-year-old first-time voter in Miami Dade County, FL, was still in line waiting to cast his ballot. Andre had been in line at South Kendall Community Church for nearly 5 hours by the time he cast his ballot just before midnight, and that is nothing compared to the 7 and 8 hours many other Floridians waited to cast their ballots during the State's condensed early voting period. "This is a mess," one voter said. "It is chaos."

Rashell Hobbs, another first-time voter, waited 5 hours in Chesapeake, VA. "This is just horrible," Rashell said. "There is no reason it should take this long."

Voters across the country had other challenges or problems voting. Voters

in Pueblo, CO, said they checked the box on their touch screen panel to vote for Mitt Romney, but it kept switching their pick to President Obama. "I wonder whether my vote really counted," one Colorado voter said.

Voters in Pennsylvania reported a similar problem, although in that case it was the President for whom they were seemingly unable to vote.

Poll watchers in Davidson County, TN, could only stand by as would-be voters saw the very, very long line of people waiting to cast their ballots and drove away, pressed, I am sure, by commitments of family or work to choose not to spend hours standing in line to exercise that most fundamental of American rights—the right to vote.

In Philadelphia, longtime registered voters who showed up to cast their ballots discovered their names simply weren't on the rolls anymore.

In Ohio, Wisconsin, South Carolina, New York, Montana—more than a dozen States experienced some kind of basic breakdown in the administration of their elections in 2012.

This is the United States. The right to vote is fundamental to who we are. It is basic to our democracy. It is in our DNA. We have to get this right.

That is why I introduced the Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely—or FAST—Voting Act of 2012, along with Senators WARNER and WHITEHOUSE. And I am grateful that Congressmen CONNOLLY and LANGEVIN in the House have introduced it and are cosponsors there.

In my view, long lines are simply another form of disenfranchising voters. Running out of ballots is simply another form of voter suppression. Incomplete and inaccurate voter rolls, disregarded voter registrations, misleading phone calls and mailing pieces—things that make it harder for citizens to vote are simply a violation of voters' civil rights.

We can and must do better. As widespread as the problem was in 2012, there are also many States that are getting it right, and these States, in my view, continue to be laboratories of democracy from which we should learn. The FAST Voting Act creates a new competitive Federal grant program roughly modeled on Race to the Top, which encourages States to pursue reforms in a different field, in education. States that demonstrate the most comprehensive and promising reform plans win a greater portion of the grant funding in that model. Instead, the FAST Voting Act would inspire election reform. This bill authorizes a Federal program that would award grants based on how well States improve access to the ballot in at least 9 different ways: through flexible registration opportunities, including same-day registration; through early voting at a minimum of 9 of the 10 calendar days preceding an election; through what is called no-excuse absentee voting; assistance to voters who do not speak English or have disabilities or visual

impairments; effective access to voting for members of our armed services; formal training of election officials, including State and county administrators and volunteers; audited and reduced waiting times at poorest performing polling stations; and, as we learned given that Sandy, Superstorm Sandy, occurred close to the election, contingency plans for voting in the event of a natural or other disaster that compels a delay of an election.

These are the big areas mentioned in this FAST Voting Act, making it easier to register, making it easier to vote early, making it easier to vote absentee, shortening lines, better preparing for catastrophes, making it easier for Americans to exercise their right to vote.

This is a good one, and I am working with a host of civil rights and voter protection groups who work, day in and day out, on strengthening our electoral process. It encourages States and localities to find new and creative and local solutions that other States can learn from.

Mr. President, as you know, in my service prior to coming to this body I was a county executive and long active with NACO, the Nation Association of Counties. Counties have different roles in different States. There are more than 3,000 counties spread across our 50 States but in most States they are responsible in part for administering elections. Many election officials are county-elected officials and many voter boards are parts of county government. One of the things I think is best about this bill, this FAST Voting Act of 2012, is that rather than mandating some specific response it encourages and incentivizes State and local officials to put together plans for how to learn from the lessons of 2012, how to learn from the long lines and the barriers that were put in front of those who came out to vote, and finding the best solutions; rather than imposing or compelling, incentivizing and leading in a way that I think State and local officials will respond to well and will accept and celebrate.

There is strong momentum. Although the election is now more than a month behind us, my hope is that we will continue to focus on the challenges of this last election and fix them before the next. The Pew Conference, today and tomorrow, on voting in America is bringing together some of our Nation's foremost experts and scholars. For that we are grateful to the Pew Charitable Foundation.

The Judiciary Committee on which we serve has a hearing announced this coming week and I applaud Chairman LEAHY and Senator DURBIN for highlighting the need to get to the bottom of what happened in 2012 and championing the need to get reform. Other Members, Senators GILLIBRAND and BOXER, have introduced bills as well and I look forward to working closely with them to harmonize our bills and making sure we have the best approach moving forward.

In addition to serving on the Judiciary Committee, I am chairman of the African Affairs Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee. In that role I advocate for free and fair elections with African leaders every day. The United States is often cited as their role model. We need to act like it and we need to earn it.

What kind of message are we sending to electoral commissions, to heads of State, to members of civil society, and advocates of free, fair, and open elections in the rest of the world when we so visibly and publicly fail to deliver on that promise here in our own country? What kind of message are we sending to Andre Murias, a first-time voter? What kind of message are we sending to Rashell Hobbs? What kind of message are we sending to first-time voters about the value of their right to vote, for which so many fought, worked, struggled, sacrificed, even died in the course of our history? What message do we send to them when we allow modern-day barriers to be put in their place?

Voting is a fundamental civil right, and when States prevent their citizens from exercising that right, whether deliberately through law or through regulations or accidentally through lack of preparation or mere incompetence, it is a violation of voters' civil rights. The Fair, Accurate, Secure and Timely Voting Act is one critical way we can try to fix our elections and make sure what happened across our country in 2012 never happens again.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, last week I came to the floor and was honored to give tributes to some of our departing colleagues. Tonight I am going to take advantage of this time to pay tribute to two other outstanding Senators, colleagues and friends of mine whom I will miss greatly. They are Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and Senator SCOTT BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in her marvelous book entitled "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country," Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON wrote the following: "No history can be written appropriately without acknowledging the part women have played in building the greatness of our country."

As my valued colleague and good friend begins a new chapter in her life, I hope she finds the time to add a new chapter to her own book, one that will be fascinating, inspiring—and autobiographical.

Like the women KAY celebrates as an author, from Amelia Earhart to Sally Ride, from Clara Barton to Condoleezza Rice, KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON is a pioneer, a breaker of barriers. In the special election in 1993, the people of

Texas made her the first woman to represent them in the Senate. In the three regular elections since then, they have confirmed their trust in her by ever-increasing margins. As the leader of the Senate Commerce Committee, KAY has been a strong voice for transportation systems that are efficient, safe, and secure. In my own work on the Homeland Security Committee, I am well aware of the major role she played in drafting the airline security bill that Congress passed after the attacks on 9/11/01. She has also worked successfully to include more effective air cargo screening.

From the America COMPETES Act to her steadfast support for NASA, KAY is determined our country will not cede its position as the world's leader in science, technology, and space exploration. When the NASA rover Curiosity thrilled all of us with its perfect landing on Mars this past August, the hands of KAY's legislative leadership were on the controls. Working with KAY as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I know how dedicated she is to ensuring that taxpayers' dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. She is a champion for our small business owners and for policies that promote free enterprise and job creation.

Her complete commitment to the men and women of our Armed Forces is reflected in her years of service on the Armed Services Committee as well as the Military Construction Subcommittee on Appropriations, and her unanimous election this year to serve as chairman of the Board of Visitors at West Point.

In the afterword to her book, KAY wrote that as a young girl growing up in Texas she was so inspired by the lives of great Americans that by the sixth grade she had exhausted all of the biographies on the school library shelf and had to turn elsewhere for book report material. I am sure the story of her own contributions and accomplishments will be avidly read by generations of girls and boys to come.

I wish her all the best as she turns a new page in what has truly been a remarkable life of public service.

SCOTT BROWN

Mr. President, when SCOTT BROWN, a fellow New Englander, came to the Senate 2 years ago, I immediately saw in him those traits shared by the people of our two New England States: a strong work ethic, a determination to always do what he thought was right, and a spirit that was independent and dedicated to doing what was best for his constituents and for his country.

My initial assessment was confirmed by our time working together on so many issues. SCOTT conducted his inspiring 2010 campaign via his now legendary pickup truck. When he got to Washington, he kept his foot on the gas. His work in government at the State and local level in Massachusetts and his distinguished service in the Army National Guard prepared him with experience that made him a respected and effective legislator from

day one. His intellect, energy, and character made him a valued colleague and a dear friend.

SCOTT is a person one could always count on. I have had the opportunity to work closely with SCOTT on so many key issues. In each and every case he brought an informed, thoughtful, and open-minded approach to every issue.

As the ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I have gotten to know SCOTT very well and I appreciate his service on our committee. He placed his top priority on helping to keep our Nation safe from the continuing threat of terrorism. He also worked hard to make our Federal Government more efficient and transparent.

With SCOTT's leadership, the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to help put the Postal Service back on a more sound financial footing and to ensure that this institution could endure. He also authored the STOCK Act, the new law that clearly prohibits insider trading by Members of Congress and their staff.

SCOTT has long been an effective champion for our small business owners, working to ensure that entrepreneurs and innovators in Massachusetts and across the country have the ability to survive and thrive and, most of all, to create good jobs. He has advocated for our Nation's veterans through the Hiring Our Heroes Act that he coauthored, which provides tax credits to small businesses that hire a returning veteran or member of the National Guard Reserve.

SCOTT has been a devoted advocate in the Senate for fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget amendment. At the same time, he kept a firm commitment to helping those most in need. He fought hard for such vital programs as the Low-Income Heating Assistance Program, which is so important to getting through those cold New England winters.

Equally important to SCOTT's hard work in the Senate has been the approach he has always taken in legislating. He studies the issues. He seeks areas where a consensus can be found. From the very first day in the Senate, he demonstrated his belief that compromise is not a dirty word but an absolute necessity if we are to meet the challenges facing America. SCOTT always looked at the issues before Congress not through the lens of a partisan politician but, rather, through the lens of a pragmatic problem-solver.

SCOTT's tenure in the Senate has been far too brief but, perhaps more important, it has been characterized by a remarkable degree of success in transforming good ideas into public laws. Given his Maine roots and strong commitment to Massachusetts, I am sure we will remain good friends in the years to come. But, oh, how I will miss serving with my friend SCOTT BROWN.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today is Human Rights Day, and I wanted to simply add my voice to the many others who have spoken about the important work the United States can do to continue our leadership around the world as a country that holds itself accountable and leads others toward being accountable for a world in which human rights have meaning and substance. There are two things we can do between now and the end of this calendar year that will make a significant contribution to human rights and to the U.S. global leadership.

First, the House of Representatives can take up and pass VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill passed months ago by this Chamber. It is a strong, broad, sensible reauthorization bill that I think well deserves consideration and passage by the other Chamber.

Second, TVPA, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, needs to be reauthorized. I was proud last month to join with Senator PORTMAN and the Presiding Officer, Senator BLUMENTHAL, as the three of us jointly founded the Caucus to End Human Trafficking. Slavery exists in the world today. In this country and around the world, there are victims of human trafficking whose voices demand to be heard. By reauthorizing TVPA, this Chamber and this country can make a meaningful contribution toward ending trafficking of persons in the United States and around the world.

I simply wanted to add today, Human Rights Day, those two simple calls for action so this Congress and this country can continue our global leadership.

The House of Representatives needs to take up and pass VAWA and the Senate needs to pass the TVPA reauthorization. Together let us continue to make history in America's leadership on human rights.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today on Human Rights Day. Now,

there are a plethora of days in this Nation known for various causes, for issues, and for historical occurrences. Human Rights Day is fundamentally American.

The rights of human beings are the reason this Nation was founded and the motivation for the war that was fought to make us free. Human Rights Day is about advancing equality, and the U.S. Constitution as it has expanded over the years to include new groups of people and strike down barriers of race, gender, ethnic background, and national origin. It is about the progress of human rights and equality, the noblest of causes for this Nation. It is about what brings us together as Americans, the fight for freedom, the search for equality and justice.

I want to talk about three specific ways we can advance the cause of human rights in this Chamber, in this session, through measures that are now before us. The first concerns human trafficking. I have been particularly interested in the rampant human trafficking problems on American military bases abroad in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Victims are recruited from developing countries like Bangladesh and the Philippines. They are charged exorbitant, illegal fees to travel to their worksites, often misled about where they are going, what their salaries will be, and what their living conditions will be like. Frequently, their passports are confiscated so they cannot return home, even if they are able to scrape together the money to make that journey.

This kind of human trafficking is no less than modern-day slavery, subsidized by our government with taxpayer money. It is reprehensible. But, for me, the number one issue is the safety of our American troops on these bases. That safety is compromised if our bases are filled with unauthorized, potentially unsafe foreign workers.

That is why I introduced the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act of 2012, which provides the most comprehensive legislative approach to solving this problem ever undertaken by the United States Congress. It is bipartisan legislation, which now is included in the Defense Reauthorization bill that passed the Senate last week, and I am hopeful that this provision will be retained in conference committee and signed into law soon with strong bipartisan support from my colleague, Senator PORTMAN of Ohio.

In addition, I want to thank Senator LEAHY for advancing the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, a broader measure known by its initials, TVPRA, which takes an even more inclusive view of this problem to make sure America stands against human trafficking rather than be complicit in it.

The second issue I want to raise is the VAWA, or the Violence Against Women Act, which continues to be stalled in the House of Representa-

tives. Tragically, incomprehensibly, and passed by this body, VAWA still has not been approved in a form that is acceptable by the House of Representatives. Reauthorizing VAWA is a top priority for me, and I know for many in this body, as well. My hope is that the House of Representatives will act in the final weeks of this session.

VAWA is a landmark statute aimed at combating domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It provides billions of dollars to support investigations and prosecutions of vicious, heinous acts, and it provides remedies and protection for assaulted women.

On this day, when we celebrate human rights, what better way than to commemorate the advances that VAWA made in fighting violence against women and to broaden its provisions to protect Native Americans, immigrants in this country, and the gay and lesbian community. That is the nature of our democracy: we advance human rights, we make them more inclusive, and we broaden their provisions. The reauthorization of this legislation is badly needed.

Finally, I want to talk about the DREAM Act, which should be part of immigration reform in this country. I think the vast majority of the Members of the Senate have accepted and indeed espoused the need for thorough, comprehensive immigration reform. That kind of reform should include the DREAM Act. I have spoken about it on many occasions, and on many of those occasions I have presented to this body an individual story as I have, for example, about Solanly Canas.

I brought her photograph with me today. She is a young woman of enormous promise who simply wants to stay in this country, and have a path to citizenship. Having been brought here at the age of 12, she didn't choose to come, she was brought here through no fault or doing of her own, and this is her country. This is where her friends are; this is the language she speaks. She lives in East Haven, Connecticut, where she attended school, and she has thrived there. She became a member of the National Honor Society. She is on the executive board of the student council. She is president of the Interact Club.

She was born in Colombia, but her roots are in America. She has dreams and goals for the future like any young woman her age, and she is proud of her connection, her roots in this country. She wants to go to college, but for so long has feared that she would not be able to go.

She is eligible to apply for the Deferred Action Program announced by the administration, but that program would simply give her a reprieve without the security and certainty that she needs to advance and continue her schooling. That is the path to citizenship that our Dreamers need and deserve so that they can go to school, serve in our military, give back to this country, and earn their citizenship

through deeds—not just words, but deeds—that make us all proud, and contribute to the quality of life in our Nation.

That is what they want to do is to earn the citizenship that so many of us take for granted. So many people in this country have this as a birthright—without the effort that she will devote to becoming a U.S. citizen. We have great citizens born here who value and prize their citizenship. But Solanly is one who deserves a path and the ability to earn it through her deeds and her accomplishments in school and afterwards.

On this Human Rights Day, I thank this body for giving me the honor of speaking about these issues. It is an extraordinary honor to say how much human rights mean in this country. We are the paragon of equality, freedom, and rights. We are the greatest Nation in the history of the world, and we are still a work in progress. We still have progress to make, and these three measures will help us to do it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

TRIBUTE TO BUDDY GUY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to recognize Buddy Guy, who was recently honored here in Washington at the Kennedy Center for his contribution to the arts.

George "Buddy" Guy was born in 1936 into a Louisiana sharecropper family. He first learned to play music on hand-made instruments.

With no money, Guy moved to Chicago in 1957 at the peak of the Chicago's blues era. A stranger introduced him at Chicago's 708 Club, where he eventually landed a steady gig. He also played at other local venues, and eventually he signed a record deal. Chicago connected Guy with legendary artists and allowed him to play guitar with blues greats like Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf. However, it was not until his 1991 release of "Damn Right, I've Got the Blues" that his career started making national headlines. The album earned him his first Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Artist and five W.C. Handy awards.

After that, the awards started streaming in. He earned 5 more

Grammy Awards and 18 more W.C. Handy awards—more than any other artist. In 2003, he received the National Medal of Arts for his extraordinary contributions to the creation, growth, and support in the arts. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2008. Billboard Magazine gave him the Century Award for distinguished artistic achievement, and Rolling Stone ranked him at No. 23 on the list of 100 Greatest Guitarists.

If that is not impressive enough, Eric Clapton once described him as the best guitar player alive. And Guy's songs have been covered by Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, Stevie Ray Vaughan, John Mayall, Jack Bruce, and others.

Although Guy was born in Louisiana, today Chicago, IL, is proud to claim him as one of our own. In 1989 he opened Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago, and it remains one of the most successful blues joints in the city. He has been called Windy City's reigning blues artist and the last strand linking the immortal Chicago bluesmen of the 1950s with the contemporary blues scene. Mayor Rahm Emanuel called Guy a "great Chicago treasure."

As one of his album titles suggests, he "Can't Quit the Blues." Even well into his seventies, he is making music. Guy tours constantly, appearing at blues clubs and festivals around the world, and he won his most recent Grammy in 2012.

President Obama called Guy "one of the last guardians of the great American blues." And on December 2, Guy was recognized at a White House reception as one of the 2012 Kennedy Center honorees for his contribution to the arts.

As Guy said himself, "From picking cotton in the field to picking a guitar in the White House, that is a long ways man."

TRIBUTE TO DAVE WHITE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after nearly four decades of service with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, last week, Mr. Dave White settled into retirement. He will be missed for his dedication, enthusiasm, and steadfast support of conservation causes, as well as his keen sense of humor and sharp wit, which kept both his staff, and Members of Congress, on their toes.

During his long career, Dave has shown great leadership in conservation, improving the Nation's land management policies and practices, and ensuring that we meet our shared goal for sustaining agriculture and natural resources. His work has ensured that private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, a goal that has grown in importance as weather disasters like Tropical Storm Irene, Hurricane Sandy, and the record drought still gripping the

Midwest become more frequent and severe.

Dave wore many hats during his time at NRCS. From 2002 to 2008, he served as the State Conservationist in Montana where he helped farmers and ranchers improve agricultural production, while at the same time reducing their impact on the environment. After learning about Dave's many outstanding achievements in Montana, my only regret was that we were not able to add NRCS State Conservationist in Vermont to Chief White's already sterling resume.

Later, in 2007 and 2008, Dave was detailed to Senator HARKIN's office, where his help in drafting the conservation title of the 2008 farm bill was immeasurable. I am deeply thankful for his assistance on this vital legislation, and for his thoughtful consideration of programs that have been so vital to Vermont's conservation efforts, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Farmland Protection Program, and Regional Equity, which have all contributed to the protection and improvement of Lake Champlain. President Obama then appointed Dave to lead NRCS, a role that he has filled admirably for 4 years working closely with Secretary Vilsack to advance voluntary, incentive-based private land conservation.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Chief White for his years of dedicated service to this Nation. I wish him well in his retirement and I hope he will come visit us soon in Vermont to sample our many delicious "value-added" agricultural products.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT RUSSELL NEARY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Lieutenant Russell Neary, a brave volunteer firefighter who was killed in the line of duty during Hurricane Sandy. He served the Town of Easton as President of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company and volunteer EMT and worked in Stamford as a vice president of General Reinsurance Company. He was deeply respected as a friendly and compassionate resident and beloved father and husband. I know his family well.

When Sandy struck Connecticut the evening of October 29, Lieutenant Neary responded to a call without hesitation—one of the many evenings over the past 13 years when he put himself in harm's way to respond to a resident in need. Tragically, when clearing the road of a fallen branch, he was fatally injured. Lieutenant Neary was the first firefighter in Easton's history to die in the line of duty. His family has a history of public service, including his brother Fire Marshal Peter Neary.

In the following days after this tragedy, members of neighboring fire departments and emergency responders volunteered their time to assist Easton Fire Company firefighters, allowing them to mourn the death of their col-

league and friend—a demonstration of brotherhood and solidarity across Connecticut public safety personnel.

Regarded as family by Chief James M. Girardi and fellow members of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company, Lieutenant Neary was tearfully mourned and remembered for days after his tragic death as "a powerful force of good will and compassion to all who met him." He was recalled by many as a sincere member of the community who genuinely cared for and enjoyed helping others. I joined more than 1,000 people—gathered from around Connecticut, the Nation, and even Canada to pay tribute to this remarkable public servant. His legacy will live on through this spirit of giving that has touched and inspired so many.

I am honored to salute Lieutenant Neary and invite my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of this gracious first responder, friend, and family member, who lost his life while keeping others safe from harm.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DONALD SINGER

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor of Col. Donald M. Singer, an airman who fought in Vietnam and a hero of America.

Donald and his wife Elizabeth had four children.

He was stationed as an Electronic Warfare Officer at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. This Nation called Donald Singer to service in Vietnam in April of 1966. After training in California and before his deployment overseas, Donald got to attend the confirmation of his oldest daughter, 10-year-old Susan. That was the last time Susan saw her dad.

Maj. Donald Singer was selected to be part of an elite group of airmen known as the "Wild Weasels." In August of 1966, on a mission north of Hanoi, North Vietnamese forces shot down his F-105 fighter jet. Both men on board ejected.

Nobody knows exactly what happened after that. But reports indicate Donald's parachute never fully opened. And he was never heard from again. The U.S. Government considered Donald missing in action and despite his status, promoted him to the rank of colonel.

Eleven years later, in 1977, the Singer family got a phone call. Donald's remains had been found. And at last, he was coming home to the United States. Today, Colonel Singer's remains rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Although Colonel Singer was a decorated airman, his family never received all the honors he earned in service to this Nation.

It was my honor to present them to his daughter Susan, on her birthday, December 7, 2012. On behalf of a grateful nation, I presented Col. Donald Singer's Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, and his Presidential Unit Citation.

It was also my honor to present the Bronze Service Star for the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Ribbon, and the Bronze Service Star for the Vietnam Service Medal.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

They are presented on behalf of a nation that will never forget Donald Singer's heroism.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of December 6, 2012, the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on December 6, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

S. 3486. An act to implement the provisions of the Hague Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty.

H.R. 6634. An act to change the effective date for the Internet publication of certain financial disclosure forms.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 7, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 6156. An act to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of December 6, 2012, the enrolled bill was signed on December 7, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3664. A bill to provide for debt limit extensions.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 10, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3486. An act to implement the provisions of the Hague Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8509. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Creation of a Low Power Radio Service" (MM Docket No. 99-25; FCC 12-144) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8510. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Shipping and Transportation; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments" (RIN1625-AB87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8511. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Schuylkill River, Philadelphia, PA" (RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0625) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8512. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), Newport River, Morehead City, NC" (RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0628) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8513. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; Palm Beach World Championship, Atlantic Ocean; Jupiter, FL" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0721) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8514. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation Clearwater Super Boat National Championship Race, Gulf of Mexico; Clearwater, FL" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0452) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8515. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; Red Bull Flugtag Miami, Biscayne Bay; Miami, FL" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0728) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8516. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; 2012 Ironman 70.3 Miami, Biscayne Bay, Miami, FL" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0559) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8517. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; Columbus Day Weekend, Biscayne Bay, Miami, FL" (RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0191) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8518. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; Thames River Degaussing Range Replacement Operations; New London, CT" (RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0623) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8519. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; East River, Flushing and Gowanus Bays, and Red Hook and Buttermilk Channels; New York, NY" (RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0950) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8520. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inland Waterways Navigation Regulations" (RIN1625-AB84) (Docket No. USCG-2011-1086) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8521. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Cruise Ships, Santa Barbara Harbor, Santa Barbara, California" (RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0906) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8522. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones; USCGC WILLIAM FLORES Commissioning Ceremony, Ybor Channel; Tampa, FL" (RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0885) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8523. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; James River, Kingsmill Resort,

Williamsburg, VA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0931)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8524. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fixed and Moving Safety Zone; Around the USACE Bank Grading Units, Mat Sinking Unit, and the M/V Harrison and M/V William James” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0738)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8525. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Bridge Demolition Project; Indiana Harbor Canal, East Chicago, Indiana” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0904)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8526. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; 2012 Head of the South Regatta, Savannah River, Augusta, GA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0913)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8527. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Wounded Warriors Benefit, Lake Erie, Huron, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0889)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8528. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Sea World San Diego Fireworks, Mission Bay; San Diego, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0874)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8529. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Submarine Cable Installation Project; Chicago River, Chicago, Illinois” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0886)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8530. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone, Changes to Original Rule; Boston Harbor’s Rock Removal Project, Boston Inner Harbor, Boston, MA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0767)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8531. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Water Main Crossing; Choctawhatchee Bay; Santa Rosa Beach,

FL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0518)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8532. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Alliance Road Bridge Demolition; Black Warrior River, Locust Fork; Birmingham, AL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0902)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8533. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Oak Island, NC” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0811)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8534. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Carolina Beach, NC” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0741)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8535. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Bridge Demolition Project; Indiana Harbor Canal, East Chicago, Indiana” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0904)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8536. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Large Cruise Ships; Lower Mississippi River, Southwest Pass Sea Buoy to Mile Marker 96.0; New Orleans, LA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2010-0012)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8537. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Coast Guard Exercise, Hood Canal, Washington” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0822)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8538. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Oregon City Bridge Grand Opening Fireworks Display; Willamette River, Oregon City, OR” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0805)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8539. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; DeStefano Wedding Fireworks Display, Patchogue Bay, Patchogue, NY” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0571)) received in the Office of the President

of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8540. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Research Vessel SIKULIAQ Launch, Marinette, Wisconsin” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0896)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8541. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Battle of Queenstown Heights Bicentennial, Niagara River, Lewiston, NY” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0849)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8542. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; America’s Cup World Series Finish-line, San Francisco, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0884)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8543. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Emerald Isle, NC” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0812)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8544. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Leukemia and Lymphoma Light the Night Walk Fireworks Display; Willamette River, Portland, OR” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0803)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8545. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Steam Ship Col. James M. Schoonmaker Relocation Project, Maumee River, Toledo, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0939)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8546. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Cooper T. Smith Fireworks Event; Mobile River; Mobile, AL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0869)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3667. A bill to rename section 219(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as the Kay Bailey Hutchison Spousal IRA; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3668. A bill to require a study on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle industrial base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 612. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable Arlen Specter, distinguished former Senator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 82

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 82, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs, to repeal the sunset of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with respect to increased dollar limitations for such credit and programs, and to allow the adoption credit to be claimed in the year expenses are incurred, regardless of when the adoption becomes final.

S. 1880

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1880, a bill to repeal the health care law's job-killing health insurance tax.

S. 3636

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3636, a bill to provide increased consumer protections for gift cards.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3667. A bill to rename section 219(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as the Kay Bailey Hutchison Spousal IRA; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation to rename the section of the tax code that is currently known as the "Spousal IRA" so that it carries the name of its champion—my friend and colleague from Texas—Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON.

Senator HUTCHISON has been an excellent partner to work with on the Commerce, Justice, and Science subcommittee watching over the nation's checkbook for investments in research, discovery, innovation, and law enforcement. We have sought to find the sensible center in addressing issues like cancer research, building a balanced space program at NASA, and most recently—on legislation to stop inmates from using cell phones in prison.

Senator HUTCHISON must be recognized for her long-standing advocacy for women. Her advocacy has been steadfast. We have worked together on the women's health agenda. We have mammogram standards in this country because of the Hutchison-Mikulski amendment. We have helped with breast cancer research funding because we have worked together, and I could give example after example.

But what I rise to discuss today is the very first issue that Senator HUTCHISON and I took on together—expanding the availability of Individual Retirement Accounts, IRAs, for spouses who work at home. Along with Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, I am the author of the Spousal IRA bill.

I have always said that one of my principles is to listen to the people and the stories of their lives. My best ideas come from the people. The Spousal IRA bill was one of those kinds of ideas. This bill was a product of Senator HUTCHISON's personal experience before joining the Senate. After putting aside money for her retirement as a single working woman, Senator HUTCHISON found that she could only put aside \$250 in an IRA once she married her husband.

This kind of policy, that discouraged women from saving for retirement, was completely backwards. Women tend to live longer than men. Women are more likely to take years off of work outside

of the home because of family responsibilities. And women are more likely to work in jobs that don't have a pension.

When Senator HUTCHISON joined the Senate in 1993, she came to me to sign on as the lead Democratic sponsor for her idea to help women save for retirement. Together we worked to build support for this bill and after 3 years and 62 cosponsors, the Spousal IRA bill became the law of the land.

Suddenly, women weren't limited to \$250, they could put away \$2,000. All women—single, married, working outside the home, or working at home—could set aside the same amount for retirement. Over time, that amount has grown, and so it is not \$2,000, but it can be \$2,500 or \$3,000 or \$5,000, depending on a woman's age.

This law is important because it reflects the values of our nation, it rewards good parenting and families, and it recognizes that not all work is done in the marketplace. American families feel the pressure from all sides, paying for their children's education, their homes, taking care of elderly parents, and being prepared for unforeseen emergency medical care costs. What the Spousal IRA law finally said was, "Moms and dads are struggling to do the right thing for their family, and they should not be penalized for staying at home."

Earlier this year, an interviewer on PBS asked Senator HUTCHISON what she's most proud of in her Senate career, and she said the Spousal IRA. Senator HUTCHISON has a lot to be proud of, but we must recognize her work in fixing federal policy to help women save for retirement. We should amend the tax code so that women in America know that they're benefitting from the Kay Bailey Hutchison Spousal IRA.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 612—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE ARLEN SPECTER, DISTINGUISHED FORMER SENATOR FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr.

INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 612

Whereas the Honorable Arlen Specter was born on February 12, 1930, in Wichita, Kansas;

Whereas Arlen Specter earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania in 1951 and a Juris Doctorate degree from Yale Law School in 1956;

Whereas Arlen Specter served in the Air Force during the Korean War, obtaining the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations;

Whereas Arlen Specter served the people of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as Assistant District Attorney from 1959 to 1964 and as District Attorney from 1965 to 1974;

Whereas Arlen Specter was recommended to serve as assistant counsel on the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy in 1964, and he established conclusions central to the report of the Commission;

Whereas Arlen Specter served with distinction as a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 3 decades, first elected in 1980, then reelected in 1986, 1992, 1998, and 2004;

Whereas, as a member and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, Arlen Specter worked in a bipartisan fashion to highlight the impact of specific diseases and to advance support for medical research and high-quality health care;

Whereas, as a member and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, Arlen Specter was recognized for his thorough questioning and presided over the confirmation hearings of 2 Justices of the Supreme Court;

Whereas, as a Senator, Arlen Specter served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate from 1995 to 1997, and as the Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate from 1997 to 2001 and from 2003 to 2005;

Whereas, as a Senator, Arlen Specter further served as a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate;

Whereas Arlen Specter was admired for his independent decisionmaking and willingness to cross party lines;

Whereas Arlen Specter introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (S. 2611, 109th Congress) and achieved bi-

partisan support and passage for the bill in the Senate on May 25, 2006;

Whereas Arlen Specter advocated both for strong national security measures and the maintenance of civil liberties;

Whereas Arlen Specter valiantly overcame bouts with brain tumors and cancer during his service in the United States Senate;

Whereas Arlen Specter returned to Philadelphia after his Senate career and taught as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School; and

Whereas Arlen Specter passed away on October 14, 2012, and is survived by his wife Joan, his sister Shirley Kety, his sons Stephen and Shanin, and 4 grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) expresses profound sorrow at the death of the Honorable Arlen Specter, former Senator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

(B) conveys the condolences of the Senate to the family of Arlen Specter; and

(C) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the House of Representatives and the family of Arlen Specter; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Arlen Specter.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3311. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3637, to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3311. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3637, to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

On page 4, after line 20, add the following:

TITLE II—INCREASING AMERICAN JOBS THROUGH GREATER EXPORTS TO AFRICA

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ‘‘Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act of 2012’’.

SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to create jobs in the United States by expanding programs that will result in increasing United States exports to Africa by 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **AFRICA.**—The term ‘‘Africa’’ refers to the entire continent of Africa and its 54 countries, including the Republic of South Sudan.

(2) **AFRICAN DIASPORA.**—The term ‘‘African diaspora’’ means the people of African origin living in the United States, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality, who are willing to contribute to the development of Africa.

(3) **AGOA.**—The term ‘‘AGOA’’ means the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

(4) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term ‘‘appropriate congressional committees’’ means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Rela-

tions, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(5) **DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES.**—The term ‘‘development agencies’’ includes the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and relevant multilateral development banks.

(6) **TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE.**—The term ‘‘Trade Policy Staff Committee’’ means the Trade Policy Staff Committee established pursuant to section 2002.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, and is composed of representatives of Federal agencies in charge of developing and coordinating United States positions on international trade and trade-related investment issues.

(7) **MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.**—The term ‘‘multilateral development banks’’ has the meaning given that term in section 1701(c)(4) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(4)) and includes the African Development Foundation.

(8) **SUB-SAHARAN REGION.**—The term ‘‘sub-Saharan region’’ refers to the 49 countries listed in section 107 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3706) and includes the Republic of South Sudan.

(9) **TRADE PROMOTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—The term ‘‘Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee’’ means the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee established by Executive Order 12870 (58 Fed. Reg. 51753).

(10) **UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.**—The term ‘‘United States and Foreign Commercial Service’’ means the United States and Foreign Commercial Service established by section 2301 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4721).

SEC. 204. STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall establish a comprehensive United States strategy for public and private investment, trade, and development in Africa.

(b) **FOCUS OF STRATEGY.**—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall focus on—

(1) increasing exports of United States goods and services to Africa by 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years from the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) promoting the alignment of United States commercial interests with development priorities in Africa;

(3) developing relationships between the governments of countries in Africa and United States businesses that have an expertise in such issues as infrastructure development, technology, telecommunications, energy, and agriculture;

(4) improving the competitiveness of United States businesses in Africa, including the role the African diaspora can play in enhancing such competitiveness;

(5) exploring ways that African diaspora remittances can help communities in Africa tackle economic, development, and infrastructure financing needs;

(6) promoting economic integration in Africa through working with the subregional economic communities, supporting efforts for deeper integration through the development of customs unions within western and

central Africa and within eastern and southern Africa, eliminating time-consuming border formalities into and within these areas, and supporting regionally based infrastructure projects;

(7) encouraging a greater understanding among United States business and financial communities of the opportunities Africa holds for United States exports; and

(8) monitoring—

(A) market loan rates and the availability of capital for United States business investment in Africa;

(B) loan rates offered by the governments of other countries for investment in Africa; and

(C) the policies of other countries with respect to export financing for investment in Africa that are predatory or distort markets.

(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the strategy required by subsection (a), the President shall consult with—

(1) Congress;

(2) each agency that is a member of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee;

(3) the relevant multilateral development banks, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the respective United States Executive Directors of such banks;

(4) each agency that participates in the Trade Policy Staff Committee;

(5) the President's National Export Council;

(6) each of the development agencies;

(7) any other Federal agencies with responsibility for export promotion or financing and development; and

(8) the private sector, including businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and African diaspora groups.

(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

(1) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress the strategy required by subsection (a).

(2) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (a).

(3) CONTENT OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (2) shall include an assessment of the extent to which the strategy required by subsection (a)—

(A) has been successful in developing critical analyses of policies to increase exports to Africa;

(B) has been successful in increasing the competitiveness of United States businesses in Africa;

(C) has been successful in creating jobs in the United States, including the nature and sustainability of such jobs;

(D) has provided sufficient United States Government support to meet third country competition in the region;

(E) has been successful in helping the African diaspora in the United States participate in economic growth in Africa;

(F) has been successful in promoting economic integration in Africa; and

(G) has made a meaningful contribution to the transformation of Africa and its full integration into the 21st century world economy, not only as a supplier of primary products but also as full participant in international supply and distribution chains and as a consumer of international goods and services.

SEC. 205. SPECIAL AFRICA STRATEGY COORDINATOR.

The President shall designate an individual to serve as Special Africa Export Strategy Coordinator—

(1) to oversee the development and implementation of the strategy required by section 204; and

(2) to coordinate with the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, (the interagency AGOA committees), and development agencies with respect to developing and implementing the strategy.

SEC. 206. TRADE MISSION TO AFRICA.

It is the sense of Congress that, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce and other high-level officials of the United States Government with responsibility for export promotion, financing, and development should conduct a joint trade mission to Africa.

SEC. 207. PERSONNEL.

(a) UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that not less than 12 total United States and Foreign Commercial Service officers are assigned to Africa for each of the first 5 fiscal years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) ASSIGNMENT.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee and the Special Africa Export Strategy Coordinator, assign the United States and Foreign Commercial Service officers described in paragraph (1) to United States embassies in Africa after conducting a timely resource allocation analysis that represents a forward-looking assessment of future United States trade opportunities in Africa.

(3) MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall assign not less than 1 full-time United States and Foreign Commercial Service officer to the office of the United States Executive Director at the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each United States and Foreign Commercial Service officer assigned under subparagraph (A) shall be responsible for—

(i) increasing the access of United States businesses to procurement contracts with the multilateral development bank to which the officer is assigned; and

(ii) facilitating the access of United States businesses to risk insurance, equity investments, consulting services, and lending provided by that bank.

(b) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.—Of the amounts collected by the Export-Import Bank that remain after paying the expenses the Bank is authorized to pay from such amounts for administrative expenses, the Bank shall use sufficient funds to do the following:

(1) Increase the number of staff dedicated to expanding business development for Africa, including increasing the number of business development trips the Bank conducts to Africa and the amount of time staff spends in Africa to meet the goals set forth in section 209 and paragraph (4) of section 6(a) of the Export-Import Bank of 1945, as added by section 209(a)(2).

(2) Maintain an appropriate number of employees of the Bank assigned to United States field offices of the Bank to be distributed as geographically appropriate through the United States. Such offices shall coordinate with the related export efforts undertaken by the Small Business Administration regional field offices.

(3) Upgrade the Bank's equipment and software to more expeditiously, effectively, and efficiently process and track applications for financing received by the Bank.

(c) OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—

(1) STAFFING.—Of the net offsetting collections collected by the Overseas Private In-

vestment Corporation used for administrative expenses, the Corporation shall use sufficient funds to increase by not more than 5 the staff needed to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development in Africa, to strengthen and expand the private sector in Africa, and to facilitate the general economic development of Africa, with a particular focus on helping United States businesses expand into African markets.

(2) REPORT.—The Corporation shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on whether recent technology upgrades have resulted in more effective and efficient processing and tracking of applications for financing received by the Corporation.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting the reduction of Department of Commerce, Department of State, Export Import Bank, or Overseas Private Investment Corporation personnel or the alteration of planned personnel increases in other regions, except where a personnel decrease was previously anticipated or where decreased export opportunities justify personnel reductions.

SEC. 208. TRAINING.

The President shall develop a plan—

(1) to standardize the training received by United States and Foreign Commercial Service officers, economic officers of the Department of State, and economic officers of the United States Agency for International Development with respect to the programs and procedures of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Small Business Administration, and the United States Trade and Development Agency; and

(2) to ensure that, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) all United States and Foreign Commercial Service officers that are stationed overseas receive the training described in paragraph (1); and

(B) in the case of a country to which no United States and Foreign Commercial Service officer is assigned, any economic officer of the Department of State stationed in that country shall receive that training.

SEC. 209. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING.

(a) FINANCING FOR PROJECTS IN AFRICA.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that foreign export credit agencies are providing non-OECD arrangement compliant financing in Africa, and that in order to counter such actions and ensure United States jobs, the Export-Import Bank should provide timely financing to meet such terms, as appropriate.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(a) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635e(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PERCENT OF FINANCING TO BE USED FOR PROJECTS IN AFRICA.—The Bank shall, to the extent that there are acceptable final applications, increase the amount it finances to Africa over the prior year's financing for each of the first five fiscal years beginning after the date of the enactment of the Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act of 2012.”.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Export-Import Bank shall report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives if the Bank has not used at least 10 percent of its lending capabilities for projects in Africa as described in paragraph (4) of section 6(a) of the Export-Import

Bank of 1945, as added by paragraph (2). The report shall include the reasons why the Bank failed to reach this goal and a description of all final applications for projects in Africa that were deemed unworthy of Bank support.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF PORTION OF CAPITALIZATION TO COMPETE AGAINST FOREIGN CONCESSIONAL LOANS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Bank shall make available annually such amounts as are necessary for loans that counter trade distorting non-OECD arrangement compliant financing or preferential, tied aid, or other related non-market loans offered by other nations for which United States companies are also competing or interested in competing.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Export-Import Bank shall report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives if the Bank has not used at least \$250,000,000 annually for loans that counter non-OECD arrangement compliant financing offered by other nations to its firms, as described in paragraph (1). The report shall not disclose any information that is confidential or business proprietary, or that would violate section 1905 of title 18, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Trade Secrets Act”). The report shall include—

(A) a description of trade distorting non-OECD arrangement compliant financing loans made by other countries during that fiscal year to firms that competed against United States firms;

(B) a description of any similar completed applications from United States firms that were denied by the Bank and the reason for such denial; and

(C) a description of any completed applications for tied aid that were denied for financing by the Bank and an explanation of why the applications were denied.

SEC. 210. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

Section 22(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee,” after “Director of the United States Trade and Development Agency.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “regional offices of the Export-Import Bank,” after “Retired Executives.”.

SEC. 211. BILATERAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL, AND MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

Where applicable, the President shall explore opportunities to negotiate bilateral, subregional, and regional agreements that encourage trade and eliminate nontariff barriers to trade between countries, such as negotiating investor friendly double-taxation treaties and investment promotion agreements. United States negotiators in multilateral forum should take into account the objectives of this title. To the extent any such agreements exist between the United States and an African country, the President shall ensure that the agreement is being implemented in a manner that maximizes the positive effects for United States trade, export, and labor interests as well as the economic development of the countries in Africa.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator TIM JOHNSON, I ask unanimous

consent that Jeanette Quick, a detailee on his committee staff, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of S. 3637.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 762 and 829; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on Calendar Nos. 762 and 829 in that order; 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; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; 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.

MARCH OF DIMES COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 2012

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3187, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3187) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3187) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE ARLEN SPECTER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 612 submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 612) honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable Arlen Specter, distinguished former Senator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 612) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 612

Whereas the Honorable Arlen Specter was born on February 12, 1930, in Wichita, Kansas;

Whereas Arlen Specter earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania in 1951 and a Juris Doctorate degree from Yale Law School in 1956;

Whereas Arlen Specter served in the Air Force during the Korean War, obtaining the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations;

Whereas Arlen Specter served the people of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as Assistant District Attorney from 1959 to 1964 and as District Attorney from 1965 to 1974;

Whereas Arlen Specter was recommended to serve as assistant counsel on the President’s Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy in 1964, and he established conclusions central to the report of the Commission;

Whereas Arlen Specter served with distinction as a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 3 decades, first elected in 1980, then reelected in 1986, 1992, 1998, and 2004;

Whereas, as a member and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, Arlen Specter worked in a bipartisan fashion to highlight the impact of specific diseases and to advance support for medical research and high-quality health care;

Whereas, as a member and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, Arlen Specter was recognized for his thorough questioning and presided over the confirmation hearings of 2 Justices of the Supreme Court;

Whereas, as a Senator, Arlen Specter served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate from 1995 to 1997, and as the Chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate from 1997 to 2001 and from 2003 to 2005;

Whereas, as a Senator, Arlen Specter further served as a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate;

Whereas Arlen Specter was admired for his independent decisionmaking and willingness to cross party lines;

Whereas Arlen Specter introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (S. 2611, 109th Congress) and achieved bipartisan support and passage for the bill in the Senate on May 25, 2006;

Whereas Arlen Specter advocated both for strong national security measures and the maintenance of civil liberties;

Whereas Arlen Specter valiantly overcame bouts with brain tumors and cancer during his service in the United States Senate;

Whereas Arlen Specter returned to Philadelphia after his Senate career and taught as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School; and

Whereas Arlen Specter passed away on October 14, 2012, and is survived by his wife Joan, his sister Shirley Kety, his sons Stephen and Shanin, and 4 grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) expresses profound sorrow at the death of the Honorable Arlen Specter, former Senator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

(B) conveys the condolences of the Senate to the family of Arlen Specter; and

(C) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the House of Representatives and the family of Arlen Specter; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Arlen Specter.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3637, the TAG extension legislation, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 3637, the TAG extension legislation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 612 as a further mark of respect to

the late Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

TIMOTHY HYUNGROCK HAAHS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2014. VICE MORGAN EDWARDS, TERM EXPIRED.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

MICHAEL WAYNE HAIL, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2017. VICE SHARON TUCKER, TERM EXPIRED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

MORTON H. HALPERIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS. VICE ALAN J. PATRICOFF, TERM EXPIRING.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR, AIR NATIONAL GUARD, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. STANLEY E. CLARKE III

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF 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. MICHAEL L. SCHOLES

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

To be brigadier general

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER S. BALLARD
COLONEL DAVID G. BASSETT
COLONEL DONALD C. BOLDUC
COLONEL EDWARD M. DALY
COLONEL MALCOLM B. FROST
COLONEL DONALD G. FRYC
COLONEL ANTHONY C. FUNKHOUSER
COLONEL PETER A. GALLAGHER
COLONEL WILLIAM K. GAYLER
COLONEL MARK W. GILLETTE
COLONEL DAVID B. HAIGHT
COLONEL JOSEPH P. HARRINGTON
COLONEL MICHAEL L. HOWARD
COLONEL JOHN P. JOHNSON
COLONEL JAMES E. KRAFT, JR.
COLONEL MICHAEL E. KURILLA
COLONEL PAUL J. LAUGHLIN II
COLONEL JOSEPH M. MARTIN
COLONEL TERENCE J. MCKENRICK
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER P. MCPADDEN
COLONEL JOHN E. O'NEIL
COLONEL MARK J. O'NEIL
COLONEL ERIC C. PETERSON
COLONEL ANDREW P. POPPAS
COLONEL JAMES E. RAINEY
COLONEL KENT D. SAVRE
COLONEL WILSON A. SHOFFNER, JR.
COLONEL MARK S. SPINDLER
COLONEL SEAN P. SWINDELL
COLONEL RANDY S. TAYLOR
COLONEL JOHN C. THOMSON III
COLONEL LEON N. THURGOOD
COLONEL FLEM B. WALKER, JR.
COLONEL ROBERT P. WALTERS, JR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. RICHARD T. TRYON

IN THE NAVY

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

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) RANDOLPH L. MAHR

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

DEEPTI S. CHITNIS
DANIEL J. CONVEY
ROBERT L. CRONYN
DANIEL D. DUNHAM
ALEX EKE
MARK W. FAGAN
CHRISTENSEN HSU
DOUGLAS D. LANCASTER
KENNETH L. MARQUARDT
GEORGE QUIROA
TARNJIT SAINI
DAVID C. SCHLENKER
STEVEN R. TURNER
STEPHEN WOLFPERT
GIA K. YI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

KARIN R. BILYARD
ERIN E. BROWN
DIANE E. COLLETTE
JUSTIN C. DEVANNA
SARAH L. EASTERSTRAYER
SARA B. EMANUEL
JAMES E. JOHNSON, JR.
REID H. KATAGIHARA
RICHARD KELLY III
SANG H. LEE
AMANDA MCGUIRE
JESSICA L. MOREHOUSE
REBECCA L. OGDEN
JEAN V. RUBANICK
EMILEE C. VENN
JENNIFER A. VIVIANO
BETHANY S. ZARNDT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

JAMES E. ANDREWS II
NICHOLAS D. BARRINGER
JOHN A. BERG
BENJAMIN P. BLANKS
NICOLAS D. BRADLEY
JERRY A. BRAVERMAN
AARON L. CALDWELL
CHRISTOPHER B. DOMINGUEZ
TRACIE T. DOMINGUEZ
JOHN S. DONOUGHE
ERIN E. DRIVER
JOSEPH B. EDDINS III
KAREN L. FISH
KURT FOSSUM
MAUREEN R. GORIO
ALHAMBRO J. GORDON
DANIEL J. HANKES
CHRISTOPHER L. T. HARRIS
JAMES A. HART
ROBERT S. HELM
MARIO A. HEREDIABLANCO
ALEXANDRA HICKMAN
SETH R. HOLLAND
RONALD L. HOLMES, JR.
CARRIE W. HOPPES
ERIK S. JOHNSON
WAYNE M. JOHNSON
RYAN P. MCGILL
SHANNON L. MERKLE
RICHARD L. NEWPORT
MATTHEW W. PERKINS
MICHAEL A. RAMOS
JENNIFER L. RIEGER
ANDREW A. SCHANO
JOSHUA H. SHEHAN
MICHAEL K. SINGER
TIMOTHY M. SKINNER
TRINA D. ST ANN
WILLIAM S. TAYLOR
LAURIS R. TRIMBLE
WILLIAM N. VASIOS
JOHN J. WALKER
CRAIGREON L. WALLACE
PATRICK S. WALSH
JOSHUA D. WALTERS
RICHARD B. WESTRICK
JARED N. WILLIAMSON
HAROLD YU
D011597
D011325
D010617

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JACOB W. AARONSON
EDWARD H. BAILEY
JOHN S. BIRCHFIELD
JOHN A. BOJESCU
MARK C. BROWN
CLAUDE A. BURNETT
BENJAMIN B. CABLE
YONG U. CHOI
MICHAEL I. COHEN

WILLIAM P. CRUM
ALAN W. DAVIS
BART M. DIAZ
KEVIN M. DOUGLAS
ANDREW E. DOYLE
GARY J. DROUILLARD
PETER M. DUNAWAY
THOMAS G. ECCLES III
JOHN A. EDWARDS
KURT D. EDWARDS
JAY C. ERICKSON
MINELA FERNANDEZAPONTE
MICHAEL E. FREY
DONALD A. GAJEWSKI
DANIEL G. GATES
JAMES J. GERACCI
GEORGE R. GOODWIN, JR.
ANDREW C. GORSKE
GEOFFREY G. GRAMMER
SHARETTE K. GRAY
JOHN GREEN III
JEFFERY P. GREENE
MICHAEL C. HARNISCH
BONNIE H. HARTSTEIN
MATTHEW J. HEPBURN
MICHAEL W. HILLIARD
NANCY G. HOOVER
DANIEL P. HSU
THOMAS R. HUSTEAD
KARIN A. JOHNSON
PAUL B. KEISER
WILLIAM F. KELLY
BOOKER T. KING
KEVIN KIRK
TONYA M. KRATOVIL
MARKIAN G. KUNASZ
ANDREW L. LANDERS
JACK E. LEWI
KENNETH M. LIEUW
ROBERT B. LIM
CHRISTOPHER T. LITTELL
JAMIL A. MALIK
RICHARD G. MALISH
BRYCE C. MAYS
JOHN P. MAZA
JERRY A. MICHEL
ANGELA G. MYSLIWIEC
VINCENT MYSLIWIEC
JASON D. PARKER
CHARLES R. PATTAN
MICHAEL A. PELZNER
AARON C. PITNEY
SHON A. REMICH
MATTHEW S. RICE
JONATHAN D. ROEBUCK
SCOTTIE B. ROOFE
IRENE M. ROSEN
MICHAEL C. ROYER
ERIC A. SHRY
NITEN SINGH
MARSHALL H. SMITH
CHRISTOPHER B. SOLTIS
BRIAN J. SONKA
THOMAS D. STARKEY
DEREK J. STOCKER
STEVEN J. SVOBODA
JOEL T. TANAKA
STEPHEN J. THOMAS
JULIE A. TULLBERG
JOHN J. VERGHESE
NICHOLAS J. VIETRI
LORYKAY W. WHEELER
DAVID W. WOLKEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

SILAS C. ABRENICA
FELICIA ALBRIGHT
LINDA J. ANDERSON
MARLENE ARLASREYNOSO
CARY J. BARRETT
CARL D. BARRINGTON
WALTER S. BAUGH
JANALE A. BENNETT
PRETORIA BENSON
JOSEPH E. BINGHAM
RACHEL B. BLANTON
BRIAN J. BOLTON
ELIZABETH M. BOWLES
BIENVENIDA BRITO
NICHOLAS F. BROOKINS
ALLISON L. BRUNSON
JOHN E. BUONORA
COREY D. CAMPBELL
MARIE E. CARMONA
BALTAZAR G. CATARROJA
EDNAESTHER P. CAUSAPIN
LEILANI CERNEROS
MARGUERITTE L. CHANDLERBOONE
EBONY C. CHATMAN
TAMMY M. CHILDS
THOMAS J. CLAYTON
SUZANNE W. COBLEIGH
KAITLYN M. COGAN
LINDSEY L. COLBURN
CHRISTINE J. CONNER
WILLIAM CORONA
THERESA M. CORRIGAN
TAMARA D. DAVIS
BENARD N. DELOACH
KEITH J. DENNENY
ROBERT L. DENNIS, JR.
ELIZABETH A. DICAMPLI

JEFFREY D. DOMINGUEZ
SARAH D. ECCLESTON
ERICA M. ERICKSON
EMILIANA ESCUETA
MARIANN R. FARK
VERONICA S. FAYERWEATHER
ROBERT A. FERNANDEZ
RUSSELL T. FIELDS
CHRISTOPHER G. FREY
WARREN S. GAMBINO
KIRK C. GILES
BARBARA A. GIVENS
LESLIE D. GONZALEZ
PATRINA GORDON
KRISTY L. GOULD
CAROLINE E. GOURLEY
KIMBERLY L. GREGORY
PATRICIA R. HALLSTEVENS
KRISTINE L. HANNAH
CRYSTAL L. HANSEN
SHAYLA N. HENDERSONYOUNG
JASMINE D. HOGAN
ELIZABETH N. HOLSHOUSER
DEANNA M. HUTCHINGS
LISA M. JENKINS
MICHELLE D. JOHNSON
NATACHA Y. JOHNSON
BRIAN M. JOHNSTON
CANDACE J. KADHIM
RACHEL E. KAROHER
IMSHIN O. KIM
CAPRICE B. KNIGHTJOHNSON
FAITH E. KULMALA
JENNIFER KUNKEL
KRISTA L. LABBE
MICHAEL D. LAFFERTY
RAHUL K. LALL
ANNA N. LEGASPI
STACEY D. LENT
MICHAEL B. LIVINGSTON
JASMINE LOUIS
AMANDA B. LOVE
BRITTANY J. LOZIER
SARA K. LUCIDO
TANYA LUCKADO
BRIAN E. LUTZ
TRINA K. LYNCH
TONYA M. MADDOX
LOUIS M. MAGYAR
BEATRIZ MARTINEZ
LORRAINE D. MASSE
CINDY L. MAY
KEISHA A. MCDANIEL
CATHERINE T. MCGURR
VERONICA B. MCMORRIS
SHEILA A. MEDINA
MICHAEL P. MEISSEL
FERNANDO M. MENDEZ
TONY E. MILLER
JASON E. MONTGOMERY
SONIA MONTIEL
CHRISTINA L. MOORE
MICHAEL L. MOORE
RANDALL J. MURPHY
DANIELLE D. NICHOLS
DAVID N. NORMAN
MICHELLE L. ONEILL
BYRON L. OYLER
JULIE Y. PARK
SAMUEL PEREZ
JASMINE C. PETERSON
MARLYN PHILLIPS
JOHN R. REED
JOHNNIE R. ROBBINS
CHARLENE B. ROBINSON
LEKEISHA M. RODRIGUEZ
SAMUEL SAMA
INES C. SANCHEZ
REGINA Y. SANDERS
DEBORAH E. SARTORI
JESSICA L. SCHWINCK
SEAN W. SHAMLIAN
STEPHEN A. SHEETS
ROBERT J. SHIPLEY
EDWIN N. SIMAZE
JASON D. SIMMONS
DENISE R. SIMON
GLENN C. SIMPSON
JEFFREY D. SMITH
SIMEON G. SMITH
DOMINIC SOLARI
ELLA M. STALLINGS
CHRISTINA L. STONER
MICHAEL J. SWANHART
TANEKKIA M. TAYLORCLARK
AUDRY M. TORRES
MARCIA L. TURLEY
JIMMY UDCHACHON
JOANA UNDERWOOD
ALENKA VALEDOMINGUEZ
JACK C. VANLUYN
MAY J. A. VERTIDO
KARA WAELTI
DANIEL WALL
JASON C. WASHINGTON
STEPHEN E. WEAVER
LARRY L. WHEAT
GWENDOLYN A. WHITCOMB
DAVID J. WILLIAMS
JEAN L. WILLIAMS
LAMIN YARBO
DEBRA M. YOUNG
KEVIN M. ZEEB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

LOVIE L. ABRAHAM
KIMBERLY D. ALSTON
AARON R. ANDERSON
JASON E. ANDERSON
SCOTT M. ANDERSON
JASON M. ANTHONY
LISA ARGO
AMY C. BARNES
WILLIAM S. BOSLEY
LYNN M. BRECKENRIDGE
DAVIN BRIDGES
BRUCE W. BROWN
TIMOTHY J. BURTON
ANGELA M. CARTER
JOHN W. CARY
KARA M. CAVE
SANGDO CHOI
ANDREW W. CHUNG
CHANESE M. CLAYBORN
RANDALL C. COBB
OLEGARIO COSS, JR.
DANIEL T. COULTER
MICHAEL J. CRIVELLO
BRAD T. CUNNINGHAM
DONALD S. DAIS
NIKKI L. DAVIS
DAVID W. DEGROOT
DANIEL P. ERWIN
OSCEOLA M. EVANS
CHRISTOPHER E. EVERETT
PATRICK A. EVERLEY
MICHAEL D. FARJELLAH
DWAN E. FIGUEROA
AARON M. FLAGG
MYIESHA M. FREEMAN
RADAMES FUENTES
DANNY R. GARRETT
JAMES B. GIDDENS
CARRIE L. GRAVES
FRANK W. GROVER
FRANCISCO I. GUMATAOTAO
CHAD W. HALE
SARA J. HARMON
CHRISTOPHER L. HATCHER
JENNY R. HAYES
BRENT B. HAYWARD
MICHAEL B. HENRY
GLORIA J. HERNANDEZ
JENNIFER R. HERNANDEZ
JEREMY R. HERSHFIELD
PAUL HESTER
JASON L. HIPPS
SHAUNTA HOLLINGSWORTH
SARA J. HORAK
DONOVAN L. HORTON
STEVEN J. JACKSON
ADRIAN B. JOHNSON
ERIK J. JOHNSON
SHEILA M. JOHNSON
ERIN J. JOHNSONKANAPATHY
JACK D. JOHNSTON
MARK C. JONES
RICCO A. JONES
CRAIG J. KEECH
MICHELE M. KEHRLE
THOMAS H. KENNEDY
HEE KIM
JOHN M. KIRALY
BENJAMIN C. KIRKUP
KELLIE L. KNIGHT
JASON W. KRANTZ
DEXTER O. LAMAR
JOHN T. LAVOIE
CALEB J. LAZARRE
MEGHAN C. LEARY
JIM R. J. MANAGBANAG
ELIZABETH J. MANGINI
VANESSA N. MAYOAGUIÑO
THERESA R. MCDONALD
JAMES E. MCILIN
SEAN P. MCLOUGHLIN
JAMES A. MCWHERTER, JR.
BRIAN K. MILLER
PATRICK W. MILLER
JESSICA A. MILLOY
DAVID A. MOORE
SUMMER A. MOORE
KELBY R. MOWERY
JERRY E. MURPHY
DAVID D. NAPPER
SILVIE L. NAVE
QUI T. NGUY
AARON NORTHP
MARK S. NORTON
STEVEN M. OLIVER
DANIEL J. ONEILL
TAJUDEEN O. OTTUN
CHRISTOPHER M. PAINE
LISA M. PAROZ
PATRICIA H. PASSMANBEDESTANI
JANET K. PAYNE
ROBERT D. PETERSON
DEMETRICE L. PITTMAN
GINGER C. PURITA
DONYA D. QUMAD
KENNETH M. REED
RUSSELL D. REIZNER
IGNACIO L. REMOLINA
THOMAS B. REZENTES, JR.
ELIEZEL RIVERA
OWEN L. ROBERTS
DEMECHEL Q. ROBINSON
ERIN C. ROBINSON
LLOYD F. ROESCH III
DAVID A. ROSS

BENJAMIN M. ROWE
AIMEE C. RUSCIO
DALE W. RUSSELL
SUMESH SAGAR
JOHNNY W. SANDERS
GREGORY L. SCHAEFER
MARK R. SCHECKELHOF
KEVIN R. SCHUSTER
KELLY G. SEIBER
PATRICE E. SHANAHAN
CARL L. SHAW, JR.
ROBERT L. SHAW
ANTHONY T. SHIEPKO, JR.
DOUGLAS R. SHOTTON, JR.
LEON K. SMITH
SCOTT SORQUIST

WALTER J. SOWDEN
NICOLE C. SPEARS
CHRISTOPHER D. SPLICAL
JONATHAN D. STALLINGS
MARTHA M. STEWART
DEBRA M. STONE
SIMON J. STRATING
CURTIS D. STRONG
FRANCIS E. SULLIVAN
JOSHUA G. SUTHERS
TROY S. TALLEY
ARNOLD F. TALLEYRAND
JOSEPH R. TAYLOR
DONNA J. TERRELL
SHONDRA F. THOMAS
TEATRIC T. THOMAS

SARA J. TORRES
DAMONE TURNER
TRAVIS T. TURNER
JOSEPH W. WALKER
MICHAEL T. WALKINGSTICK
SHANNON D. WALLS
DORIAN A. WALTON
LAURA L. WANG
ELIZABETH W. WANJA
BRIDGET A. WASHINGTON
TROY M. WASKOVIK
JASON R. WEIR
DANIEL C. WIGGINS
VICKEE L. WOLCOTT

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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 Tuesday, December 11, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure
To hold hearings to examine tax reform and Federal energy policy, focusing on

incentives to promote energy efficiency.

SD-215

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Keith Kelly, of Montana, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, and William S. Greenberg, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SR-418

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Shelly Deckert Dick, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, Andrew Patrick Gordon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Ketanji Brown Jackson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Beverly Reid O'Connell, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights
To hold hearings to examine ending the school-to-prison pipeline.

SD-226

DECEMBER 13

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine improving care for dually-eligible beneficiaries, focusing on a progress update.

SD-215

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1223, to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and S. 1560, to enhance access to controlled substances for residents of institutional long-term care facilities.

SD-226

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine terrorist networks in Pakistan and proliferation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs); to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217.

SD-419

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Hurricane Sandy, focusing on assessing the Federal response and small business recovery efforts.

SR-428A

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold a closed business meeting to consider certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

DECEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the state of the right to vote after the 2012 election.

SD-226

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7691–S7709

Measures Introduced: Two bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3667–3668, and S. Res. 612. **Pages S7702–03**

Measures Passed:

March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act: Senate passed H.R. 3187, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation. **Page S7706**

Honoring the life of former Senator Arlen Specter: Senate agreed to S. Res. 612, honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable Arlen Specter, distinguished former Senator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **Pages S7706–07**

Transaction Account Guarantee Program—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3637, to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, be postponed to occur at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, December 11, 2012; that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed, the motion to proceed be agreed to; and the Majority Leader be recognized. **Page S7707**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3637, to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, with the time until 12:30 p.m., equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders or their designees. **Page S7707**

Dowdell and Bernal Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of John E. Dowdell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, and Jesus G. Bernal, of California, to be United States District Judge for the

Central District of California; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on the confirmation of the nomination of John E. Dowdell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, and the nomination of Jesus G. Bernal, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, in that order; and that no further motions be in order. **Page S7706**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Timothy Hyungrock Haahs, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2014.

Michael Wayne Hail, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2017.

Morton H. Halperin, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of three years.

- 1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.
- 35 Army nominations in the rank of general.
- 1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.
- 1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Army. **Pages S7707–09**

Messages from the House: **Page S7701**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S7692, S7701**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S7701**

Executive Communications: **Page S7701**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S7703**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7703–04**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7700–01**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7704–06**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7706**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late former Senator Arlen Specter, in accordance with S. Res. 612, at 6 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7707.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 11, 2012.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

CHRISTIANITY IN WESTERN EUROPE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the state-sanctioned marginalization of Christians in Western Europe, focusing on the origins, methods, and implications of such a movement and its relation to religious freedom rights as they are protected in major international human rights agreements, after receiving testimony from Roger Kiska, Alliance Defending Freedom, Vienna, Austria; Tom Farr, Georgetown University Religious Freedom Project Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Washington, D.C.; and Roger Trigg, Oxford University Kellogg Centre for the Study of Religion in Public Life, Oxford, United Kingdom.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1007)

H.R. 915, to establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force program to enhance border security by fostering coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect United States border cities and communities from trans-national crime, including violence associated with drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States. Signed on December 7, 2012. (Public Law 112–205)

H.R. 6063, to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses. Signed on December 7, 2012. (Public Law 112–206)

H.R. 6634, to change the effective date for the Internet publication of certain financial disclosure forms. Signed on December 7, 2012. (Public Law 112–207)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: To hold hearings to examine streamlining and strengthening Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) rental housing assistance programs, part II, 10:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Finance: To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ronald Lee Buch, of Virginia, and Albert G. Lauber, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Select Committee on Intelligence: To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled "The Devastating Crisis in Eastern Congo", 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, 5 p.m., H–313, Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 11 through December 14,
2012

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 11 a.m., Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to

consideration of S. 3637, Transaction Account Guarantee Program, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 2:15 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: December 11, to hold hearings to examine streamlining and strengthening Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) rental housing assistance programs, part II, 10:30 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Finance: December 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ronald Lee Buch, of Virginia, and Albert G. Lauber, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, 10 a.m., SD-215.

December 12, Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine tax reform and Federal energy policy, focusing on incentives to promote energy efficiency, 10 a.m., SD-215.

December 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine improving care for dually-eligible beneficiaries, focusing on a progress update, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: December 13, Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, to hold hearings to examine terrorist networks in Pakistan and proliferation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs); to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on the Judiciary: December 12, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Shelly Deckert Dick, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, Andrew Patrick Gordon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Ketanji Brown Jackson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Beverly Reid O'Connell, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, 10 a.m., SD-226.

December 12, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, to hold hearings to examine ending the school-to-prison pipeline, 2 p.m., SD-226.

December 13, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1223, to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and S. 1560, to enhance access to controlled substances for residents of institutional long-term care facilities, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: December 13, to hold hearings to examine Hurricane Sandy, focusing on assessing the Federal response and small business recovery efforts, 10 a.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: December 12, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Keith Kelly, of Montana, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, and William S. Greenberg, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 10 a.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: December 11, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

December 13, Full Committee, to hold a closed business meeting to consider certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, December 13, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing on "Dodd-Frank Derivatives Reform: Challenges Facing U.S. and International Markets", 9 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Financial Services, December 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Impact of the Volcker Rule on Markets, Businesses, Investors and Job Creation, Part II", 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 11, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled "The Devastating Crisis in Eastern Congo", 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, December 12, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Keeping the New Broadband Spectrum Law on Track", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

December 13, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "State of Uncertainty: Implementation of PPACA's Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, December 13, Full Committee, markup of H.J. Res. 819, Directing the Attorney General of the United States to transmit to the House of Representatives, not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, any documents and legal memoranda in the Attorney General's possession relating to the practice of targeted killing of United States citizens and targets abroad; H.R. 4216, the "Foreign Counterfeit Prevention Act"; and H.R. 6014, the "Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act", 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, December 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "HGH Testing in the NFL: Is the Science Ready?", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, December 11, Full Committee, hearing providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, 5 p.m., H-313, Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, December 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Future of NASA: Perspectives on Strategic Vision for America's Space Program", 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, December 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Northeast Corridor Future: Options for High-Speed Rail Development and Opportunities for Private Sector Participation", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, December 12, Full Committee, business meeting to approve Activities Report for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, December 12, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled “Proposal to Reduce Child Deaths Due to Maltreatment”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, December 13, Full Committee, business meeting on Investigative

Report on the U.S. National Security Issues Posed by Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei and ZTE, 8:30 a.m., HVC-304. This is a closed meeting.

December 13, Full Committee, hearing on ongoing intelligence activities, 10:30 a.m., HVC-304. This is a closed hearing.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 11

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Tuesday, December 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 1 hour), Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3637, Transaction Account Guarantee Program. At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.



Congressional Record

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