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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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No. 66

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord God Omnipotent, Your power and love destroyed the darkness of death and sin. Thank You for hardships that keep us humble and for misfortunes that keep us aware of Your power and goodness.

Lord, rule the wills of our lawmakers by Your might as You use them to do Your work on Earth. Give them faith to look beyond today's challenges and trials, believing that neither life nor death can separate them from Your love. May they not become bogged down in self-made cares as they continue to look to You, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Help us all to prove our gratitude to You by selfless service for those who need our love and care.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The minority leader is recognized.

### IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, every Member of this body wants to keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon—everyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. But I have to say, a number of my Republican friends have shown an unusual way of showing this. The chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee worked to find a middle ground on this bill that satisfies congressional Democrats, Republicans, and the administration. It wasn't easy. In fact, it was a long and difficult process. That bill came out of the committee 19 to 0. But these two good men, the junior Senator from Maryland and the junior Senator from Tennessee, were able to strike a delicate balance that allows Congress to vote on a final Iran agreement. They were able to build a consensus along the way.

The Corker-Cardin bill was reported out of committee unanimously. Yet before this compromise even came to the floor, certain Senate Republicans were determined to destroy it. A number of Senate Republicans are prioritizing Presidential politics over national security. Others are simply trying to undermine President Obama.

For example, the junior Senator from Arkansas has been on record for

months stating his desire to see this negotiation fail. Back in January, before there was a framework of an agreement, he said the following about the ongoing negotiations to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon:

The end of these negotiations isn't an unintended consequence of congressional action. It is very much an intended consequence.

It is there what he said, just as clear as day. The junior Senator from Arkansas and other Republicans want to see any potential agreement with Iran crash and burn, even before we know what is in the final agreement.

Some Republicans have proposed poison pills—poison pill after poison pill—to what was a noble compromise between the leaders of the Foreign Relations Committee. Republicans have proposed 67 amendments as of right now. If they could, they would offer more. Democrats, on the other hand, do not want to upset this delicate balance. We have offered no amendments. Instead, we have striven to preserve the Corker-Cardin bill.

The difference, as usual, is that Democrats want to be constructive and Republicans continue to want to be destructive. Democrats want to pass this bipartisan bill right now, even as the junior Senators from Arkansas, Florida, Texas, and others work to ruin it.

The Senate has already voted on two poisonous amendments, and we will vote on more if we have to, but we don't have to. It is not necessary. It is now clear opponents of the bill aren't interested in being reasonable. The opponents of the Corker-Cardin legislation aren't concerned with finding a

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



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middle ground. That is why the majority leader should file cloture now to preserve this legislation. Destructive Members within his own party have forced his hand.

I support the majority leader in taking this step because it is the only path forward to passing this meritorious legislation. The exemplary work done by the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee is too important to be undone by Senators who are putting politics before national and global security.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD—VETO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

Mr. REID. Madam 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.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS AND NORTH DAKOTA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, today I rise to continue an effort to honor the memory of the 198 North Dakotans who died while serving our country in Vietnam. As I have said in the past, we are in a period of 13 years of recognition of the sacrifices of those Vietnam vets based on a proclamation signed by the President. I think it is only appropriate that we recognize not only those who were killed in action but also our living Vietnam vets who add so strongly to the fabric of our society and our culture.

First, I would like to recognize a Vietnam veteran who is making a difference each and every day, my good friend Rick Olek. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He spent 20 years in the National Guard and over 30 years as a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier. He served on North Dakota's Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs

and as president of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. Today, he grills a top-notch steak at the AMVETS.

I also want to again thank the Bismarck High School 11th graders and their teachers for helping me to research these fallen heroes and to reach out to their families. These students contacted the family of George Valke III as part of their project and shared their research with my office. I know that this experience for these students has enriched not only my efforts here but enriched their lives as well.

I want the family members, friends, and fellow veterans of the men I honor today to know that it is not easy to narrow the facts of each man's life. In fact, I believe a book could be written about every one of them. I am touched that so many family and friends have opened up to us to talk about their loved ones.

#### GERALD COULTHART

We are going to start with Gerald Coulthart. Gerald was from Hamilton. He was born June 5, 1947. He served in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. Gerald was 21 years old when he died on April 28, 1969. He was the youngest of six children. His brother Raymond also served in the Army.

In high school, Gerald participated in wrestling. After graduation, he attended the Hanson Trade School in Fargo. Before leaving for Vietnam, Gerald shared a premonition with his sister Serene that he would not be alive the next time they would be together. Despite his feeling, Gerald was glad to go, saying it was better it be he than a guy with kids and a family and a wife.

Gerald's fellow soldier, Michael Matthews, recounted that Gerald died 6 weeks into his tour in Vietnam, when Firebase Carolyn came under rocket attack.

#### STEPHEN EICHELBERGER

Stephen Eichelberger was from Fargo and was born September 26, 1946. He served in the Marine Corps in the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines. Stephen died on May 16, 1967. He was 20 years old. He was one of five children. Stephen's brother Richard served in the Army.

Stephen's siblings remember him teaching them about the real world. They say Stephen was the best brother anyone could ask for. They appreciated his dedication to them, including attending their sporting events and even buying them a bike.

In addition to his parents and siblings, Stephen left behind his wife Janet and one son John.

#### FRANCIS "ED" GEIGER

Francis "Ed" Geiger was from Dickinson. He was born on December 23, 1936. He served in the Air Force as a pilot. Ed was 28 years old when he died on July 23, 1965. He was the eighth of 10 children. Only three of them are living today: Monica, Florence, and Leonard.

Ed became an Air Force captain and flight instructor who was very careful

about deciding whether or not to certify other officers to fly. He was a stickler for the rules.

Ed left behind his wife Joan and daughter Lynn.

Faith was very important to Ed. While in Vietnam, he worked with the chaplain to provide a daily Catholic mass for those who wished to attend.

Two Air Force memorials honor Ed: Geiger Hall at Minot Air Force Base and a memorial wall at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs for forward air controllers killed in action.

#### STEPHEN GROTH, JR.

Stephen Groth, Jr., was from Enderlin and was born January 12, 1945. He served in the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Stephen was 22 years old when he went missing July 12, 1967.

In high school, Stephen was well liked. He enjoyed golf and baseball. He attended both North Dakota State University and the State School of Science in Wahpeton before joining the service.

His sister Kathy remembers how Stephen spent his last days before leaving for Vietnam visiting the people he loved. Kathy has always believed he was using this time to say good-bye. Throughout the years, people have left photos, letters, and other memorials at his grave in Enderlin.

#### MELVIN LEMBKE

Melvin Lembke was from Grand Forks and was born March 23, 1944. He served in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. On December 11, 1968, Melvin died. He was 24 years old.

Melvin was one of four boys, and three of them served in the military at the same time. One brother, Raymond, also served in the Army, and another brother, William, served in the Marine Corps.

Melvin was an accomplished wrestler, earning second in the State high school championship, and later made the wrestling team at the University of North Dakota.

Melvin's brothers remembered how he excelled in math and science and loved life. Melvin was survived by his wife, son, brothers, and parents.

#### THOMAS NARUM

Thomas Narum was from Amidon and was born on May 13, 1946. He served in the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He was only 20 years old when he died on January 18, 1967.

Thomas was 1 of 11 children. His sister closest in age, Margaret, remembers Thomas as a kind, gentle young man. She told of how he would often scrub the floors in their home to help his mother.

Thomas was such an important part of the sports teams in high school that after he fell off a scaffolding while working on the family's house, the school superintendent was upset that Thomas chose to have surgery for the chipped bone in his arm and wouldn't be able to play.

#### RICHARD ORSUND

Richard Orsund was from Grafton and was born on July 19, 1947. He served

in the Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Richard died on March 27, 1968. He was 20 years old.

Richard was the second of four children. His father served in the Army in World War II, and his older brother served in the North Dakota National Guard.

Richard's sister Shirley remembers him as a well-respected young man. He was the president of the student council, and he was an outstanding athlete in track and football. He worked a part-time job after school. So, in order to practice for track, he woke up early every morning and ran 4 miles around the family's section of land.

Richard believed he would eventually be drafted. So after 1 year of college, he enlisted in the Army.

At Richard's funeral, the church and basement were both overflowing, with some people standing outside listening.

RONALD "RONNIE" STOLTENOW

Ronald "Ronnie" Stoltzenow was from Hankinson and was born on June 29, 1947. He served in the Army's 1st Infantry Division. Ronnie was 20 years old when he died on November 7, 1967.

His family and friends say he was respectful, loyal, humble, compassionate, friendly, hardworking, willing to learn, and spontaneous.

Ronnie served as a medic in Vietnam. During an ambush, he was wounded but he continued to give aid to his fellow soldiers until he was eventually shot and kill.

His family believes his bravery, deep sense of duty to his country, and compassion for others led Ronnie to become a fallen hero.

GEORGE TONGEN

George Tongen was from Walhalla and was born on August 7, 1947. He served in the Army's 25th Infantry Division. George died May 21, 1968. He was 20 years old.

George was the middle child of seven children. Three of George's brothers also served our country. Robert served in the Marine Corps, and Daniel and John served in the Army.

George's father was not able to finish high school, so he made sure his children understood the importance of education. George was the only child in their family who didn't earn a college degree because he chose to enlist after his sophomore year of college. George's siblings completed their college education, some earning master's and doctoral degrees.

George's family remembers him as a bright, avid reader and music lover. He was a positive role model to the kids he encountered while working as a life-guard and camp counselor.

RICHARD "DICK" TRISKE

Richard "Dick" Triske was from Fargo. He was born on January 3, 1949. He served in the Marine Corps' India Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. Dick was 19 years old when he died on June 2, 1968.

Dick had two brothers and two sisters. His siblings remember that Dick

was a fun-loving person who always enjoyed making jokes. He loved boxing and fixing cars.

Dick enlisted before graduating from high school. Three of his friends also died while serving in Vietnam, two of them before Dick and one after.

GEORGE "GREG" VALKER III

George "Greg" Valker III was from Fargo and was born on October 24, 1946. He served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. Greg was 21 years old when he died on August 10, 1968.

Greg had a younger brother, Bryan, and a younger sister, Vicki. Their parents ran a floral shop, and Greg was an important part of that flower business. While serving in Vietnam, he helped fellow soldiers send floral arrangements to their families on the holidays and made sure that moms were remembered on Mother's Day.

Greg's plans after completing his service was to become a third-generation florist in the family business.

His family and friends remember Greg as being fun and full of love and kindness. Greg was his brother Bryan's best friend and confidant, and his sister Vicki's teacher and protector.

In talking with the Bismarck High School students and my staff about her brother Greg, Vicki found that after all of these long years of mourning the loss of her big brother, this opportunity to share what a wonderful person he was allowed her to find some closure on a painful loss.

MURRAY VIDLER

Murray Vidler was from Canada but enlisted in Fargo. He was born on May 6, 1946. He served in the Marine Corps' Mike Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Murray died on December 19, 1967. He was 21 years old.

One of Murray's friends had served in Vietnam, which inspired Murray and another friend to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. When he went home on leave, he told his siblings of the friendships he had made in the U.S. Armed Forces and how much he cared about the children of Vietnam.

GORDON WENAAS

Gordon Wenaas was from Mayville and was born on March 2, 1932. He served in the Air Force's 314th Tactical Airlift Wing. Gordon was 35 years old when he went missing on December 29, 1967. While missing, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

He was one of eight children. Gordon and all of his four brothers served our country in the military.

Gordon has four children of his own: Kenny, Pam, Ronny, and Ricky.

His remains were recovered in the 1990s and identified in 2000. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

DAN NEUENSCHWANDER

Dan Neuenschwander was from Fessenden and was born on October 3, 1945. He served in the Marine Corps' India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Dan died on May 15, 1968. He was only 22 years old.

Dan was the youngest of four children. His oldest sister, Nedra, said that

the family babied him and that he was a tough, yet sensitive person. Nedra is proud of her brother and remembers that while he was studying at the University of North Dakota, he had mono but fought to get a clean bill of health so he could enlist in the Marines.

Shortly after Dan's death, his family received a letter he wrote them describing why he believed in the Vietnam war.

NORMAN WILLIAMS

Norman Williams was born July 11, 1947. He served in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. Norman was 20 years old when he died on December 6, 1967.

He was one of four children. Six of Norman's uncles served in World War II.

Norman's brother Roger said that in high school Norman's friends called him Will or Willy. His active high school career included playing football and participating in the FFA as a member of the crop judging team, a chapter officer, and a member of the parliamentary procedure team.

Norman chose to enlist in the Army in 1966 to serve his country.

All of these young men—as we think about their lives and their sacrifice, we can only imagine what they would have accomplished and what they would have done in our country. We are so grateful for their sacrifice, and it is so important that we remember this sacrifice during this period of remembrance of the Vietnam war.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Madam President, today I return to the floor of the Senate for my ninth installment of "Waste of the Week." I think the Presiding Officer has been here for most of those nine installments.

My purpose has been straightforward: to highlight waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal spending. So far, we have reached a potential taxpayer savings of almost \$50 billion. I have a chart here which shows the ever-increasing amount of red ink, representing waste of taxpayers' dollars, caused by fraud and abuse and waste from programs that simply haven't proven their effectiveness. We are on the way to \$100 billion. Today we are going to reach and go over the halfway mark. We are going to continue to do this, and, hopefully, we will be extending this chart in the future, which now shows just some examples of what we have provided before.

The largest example of waste, fraud, and abuse disclosed was found in the refundable child care tax credit to the tune of \$20 billion in potential savings.

These are from people who did not qualify—they were ineligible for receipt—yet over a 10-year period of time, they will receive \$20 billion which they are not entitled to.

The smallest but by far the most inexplicable—and even laughable and ludicrous—example of waste was a \$387,000 grant for a study to determine whether massages on New Zealand rabbits after strenuous exercise would help their recovery time. Now, anybody who has been out in the yard, fixing around the house doing strenuous activity, when asked if they think a massage would help them recover, probably is going to say yes. In fact, the rabbits were getting it four times a day. While they couldn't say yes, I think the response clearly was that this is a pretty good deal. Unfortunately, it costs the taxpayer \$387,000 in grant money to prove that, yes, the massages helped after strenuous exercises. It is not exactly what the taxpayer had in mind. When they sent their tax dollars to Washington. When they paid their taxes on April 15 and filed their return—that is not exactly what they were sending their money to Washington to do. Is it laughable? Yes. Is it tragic? Yes. We are spending significant amounts of money and it is going to waste, fraud, and abuse. By the way, the rabbits were all euthanized after the results, so they enjoyed the massages, but it didn't last and they are no longer with us.

Perhaps the most important example of waste was to protect Americans from identity theft and taxpayers from fraud. By correcting Social Security records, we could save at least \$2 billion. This is the famous Methuselah example. The Social Security Administration had not deleted the Social Security numbers of those who had died. The number is staggering. It was 6.5 million, I believe—the number of people who would have exceeded the age of 112 years. In other words, they applied for Social Security back in the early 1930s or mid-1930s when the program began, but their numbers were never erased. They were then used for fraud. The savings, if we could correct that problem—and I have proposed legislation to do so—would be \$2 billion.

This week, I wish to speak about the Department of Agriculture. Now, being from a State such as Indiana, agriculture is obviously very important and I am a strong supporter of Hoosier farming. I fight for family farms as they seek to survive from generation to generation. I support cutting red-tape and Federal mandates that unnecessarily burden Hoosier farmers.

As a broader issue, I recognize that food production is extremely important not only for our own benefit but rises to the level of even being an issue of national security. But that is not what I am talking about today.

Today, I wish to speak about taxpayer dollars that are being used to fund grants not for farming but for marketing. Let me give some exam-

ples. U.S. law currently on the books creates a grant program requiring that the "Secretary of Agriculture shall award competitive grants in developing a business plan for viable marketing opportunities." Well, there is a real question as to whether this ought to be mandated through the Federal Government; that is, should the government select those who apply for grants to develop a marketing program. The problem is that very few end up with the grants, but for those who do, it is a special deal for them. Winners and losers really shouldn't be selected by the Federal Government for a grant that doesn't go directly to production but actually goes to marketing of agricultural goods.

Let me give an example. One of the winners was a single farm that received a \$44,700 grant to increase sales of its pumpkins and squash, including pumpkin doughnuts. I am not making this up. The grant was there to promote the marketing of pumpkin doughnuts—they probably taste pretty good—as a nutritious, locally produced food.

The farmer down the road didn't get his grant. Maybe he was growing corn. The farmer on the other side of the road was growing soybeans, another was growing wheat, another might be growing tomatoes, another might be growing different types of fruit, and so forth and so on, but the one who was growing pumpkins somehow qualified. The government said: Hey, that is a winner. Let's put a marketing plan together. Here is \$44,700 to do so.

That is one example.

Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, taxpayers are funding things such as helping to process olives into olive oil. I think that is a practice that goes back a few thousand years—just ask the Italians. I don't know that we needed a grant to do that. There is a grant for helping to develop and market sparkling wine and hard cider. We have been drinking wine since the beginning of time. I think the French know how to market sparkling wines. Maybe we can read how to do it rather than putting a grant together to promote that. There are grants for the marketing of goat's milk, cheese, and soaps and providing organic chicken meat for restaurants. Look, I am not against the agriculture community marketing its products. Every product maker markets their products. But do we need all this expenditure of taxpayer money to prove whether there can be a better marketing program for a select few? What about the many who don't have any basis or ability to claim these grants?

Over the past 10 years, grantees under this program have received over \$290 million. It is a pretty sweet deal for the grant recipients, but it is a pretty expensive deal for the taxpayer. And what does this grant process say about the losers, those not selected? In essence, what we are doing is promoting a few select products. Why are we promoting pumpkin doughnuts over

banana nut muffins? What about watermelons and not cantaloupes, carrots, turnips—and on and on we go.

Well, the Federal Government is here to protect farmers and entrepreneurs so they can compete in a fair and dependable economic climate. But at the end of the day, these government-selected projects are not the best use of taxpayer money and are in stark contrast to what the government ought to be doing. After all, when taxpayers send their hard-earned tax dollars to Washington, they rightly expect their leaders to steward those resources responsibly. I would argue that taxpayer-funded pumpkin doughnuts are not a good use of taxpayer dollars.

I support agriculture, but let's actually support farming, not just pumping up the sales and profits of a select few. We can do better.

Today, I am adding \$290 million to our taxpayer savings gauge, which puts us over the halfway mark of \$50 billion. That is a small amount compared to our budget. That is a small amount in terms of the money that comes flowing into Washington from taxpayers. But we have not been able to address the larger issue, the issue that has to be addressed and is continually pushed down the road, continually pushed back to the next election, and that is the unbelievable growth of entitlement programs that are squeezing out many essential and necessary things the government needs to do, such as health care research.

This morning, I was listening to a committee meeting with Francis Collins, who heads up NIH, who was talking about the medical breakthroughs they could have if they just had some more funds and weren't being sequestered with less and less money each year. We need to always—but particularly in difficult fiscal times—direct taxpayers' funding in the most responsible way we can.

With that, I will add some more money to our gauge, and we will be back next week for "Waste of the Week" No. 10.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, in Congress we should be working on ways to build an economy that works for all of our families—not just the wealthiest few. Unfortunately, once again, instead of standing up for workers, some of my Republican colleagues are bound and determined to defend the biggest corporations that have an interest in keeping wages low and denying workers a voice to improve their workplace.

President Obama vetoed this resolution. I urge my colleagues to sustain

that veto to ensure workers are able to exercise that right. The National Labor Relations Board, the NLRB, helps to ensure that workers have a fair up-or-down-vote. Unfortunately, too often big corporations take advantage of loopholes in the current election process to delay a vote on union representation.

The NLRB was absolutely right to carry out its mission to review and streamline its election process to bring down those barriers for workers who want a fair vote. These updates will make modest but important changes to modernize and streamline the process. They will reduce unnecessary litigation on issues that will not affect the outcome of the election. The new process will bring the election process into the 21st century by letting employers and unions file forms electronically. Instead of attacking workers who just want a voice in the workplace, I hope my colleagues will support President Obama's veto.

I truly hope we can break through the gridlock and work together on policies that do create jobs and expand economic security and generate broad-based economic growth for workers and families—not just the wealthiest few.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:20 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 76, Willie May to be an Under Secretary of Commerce, and that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate vote on the nomination; further, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

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

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF WILLIE E. MAY TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

#### YEAS—93

Ayotte	Flake	Murray
Baldwin	Franken	Nelson
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Bennet	Gillibrand	Perdue
Blumenthal	Graham	Peters
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Booker	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heinrich	Reid
Brown	Heitkamp	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Cantwell	Hirono	Rounds
Capito	Hoeven	Rubio
Cardin	Inhofe	Sanders
Carper	Isakson	Sasse
Casey	Johnson	Schatz
Cassidy	Kaine	Schumer
Coats	King	Scott
Cochran	Kirk	Sessions
Collins	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lankford	Shelby
Corker	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	Markley	Thune
Daines	McCain	Tillis
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall
Durbin	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Warren
Ernst	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Menendez	Vitter
Boozman	Murkowski	
Cruz	Toomey	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

#### CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN. For 100 years, the Chicago Community Trust has connected the generosity of Chicagoans with the needs of the community.

In 1915, 6 years after Daniel Burnham unveiled his visionary plan for the city of Chicago, Norman Harris and his son Albert recognized how much could be achieved by combining the philanthropy of business and community leaders who cared deeply about the future of Chicago. They founded The Chicago Community Trust. As brilliant as Burnham's plan was, Norman and Albert Harris understood that it takes more than steel, glass, and concrete to make a great city. A great city needs healthy, hopeful people, good schools, culture, and arts—all things that the trust has helped nurture for 100 years.

Whether its economic opportunity, education, housing, conservation, or health care—the list of important causes in which the Chicago Community Trust is involved is remarkable. Since its founding, the trust has granted more than \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations working to improve the quality of life in the community. The trust has helped develop new audiences to sustain arts organizations, protected the human services safety net for those hardest hit by economic challenges, eased the devastating effects of foreclosures in Chicago neighborhoods, and

elevated teaching to meet world-class standards.

In the wake of the worst recession since the Great Depression, the trust stepped up and distributed \$11.4 million in Unity Challenge grants to meet the needs of Chicago's most vulnerable citizens. The grants supplied food to more than 800 soup kitchens and food pantries. The trust helped expand capacity at homeless shelters and bought winter coats for children. The trust put money in community health centers and helped seniors pay for their prescription medications. The recession was hard on Chicago, but the business and community leaders at the Chicago Community Trust made sure that the community took care of its own.

This month, the trust is launching its centennial campaign, starting with the return of "On the Table," a forum that brings together thousands of Chicago residents to share a meal and talk about how they can work together to make the community stronger, safer, and more dynamic. Last year, nearly 12,000 people participated from every Chicago neighborhood and 11 neighboring counties. This year, the trust is expecting to at least double the number of people participating.

I congratulate the Chicago Community Trust on 100 years strengthening the community. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make Chicago a great and caring community.

#### VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am proud to join Senator GILLIBRAND in support of the introduction of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2015. This bill would improve the fabric of our democracy and bring our election procedures into the 21st century by eradicating barriers to voter registration and expanding access to the franchise for millions of voters who were previously unregistered to vote. I thank Senator GILLIBRAND for her leadership on this issue.

The right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy. In our representative form of government, the right to participate in the democratic process is fundamental to who we are and what we believe. That is, our belief in being a nation grounded in the idea of equal justice under law. Voting is a fundamental right because it is preservative of all other rights. Without access to the ballot, our civil rights and freedoms of religion, speech, and press could be eroded and our faith that those rights will be fully protected lost.

In 2012, our Nation witnessed cracks in the foundation of our democracy. Millions of people watched television coverage of our presidential election in disgust as voters stood in lines for hours, mainly due to problems with the paper-based voter registration system. No American in the 21st century should have to use paper ballots or stand in

lines for hours in order to exercise their fundamental right to vote. The President's bipartisan commission to improve the election process concluded that no voter should have to wait more than 30 minutes to vote. We should be making voting easier, not harder. We can begin that process by ensuring that States modernize their voter registration process and give citizens the choice to register to vote online.

When the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 was passed two decades ago, the revolution in data sharing and integration was just beginning. It is time to incorporate the commonplace experience of online transactions into the election process. By implementing online voter registration, the Voter Registration Modernization Act addresses a key problem with paper-based systems—the inaccurate transfer of information to election authorities. This bill would ensure that voters' votes count and help election authorities who rely on accurate voter registration lists to better detect problems.

Currently, 20 States have online voter registration systems. One of the greatest benefits we have seen so far is the saving of taxpayers' money. Arizona, for example, which launched the Nation's first online voter registration system, saved its taxpayers almost \$1.4 million. Kansas noted no expenses at all. It is now time for the Federal Government to follow their lead and adopt these common-sense, cost cutting reforms.

The Voter Registration Modernization Act amends the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for online voter registration systems. It provides funding for States to implement the bill and directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct an ongoing study on best practices for Internet registration. With passage of this bill, States are required to adopt pro-technology measures, including taking steps to ensure the online availability of voter registration forms, provide online assistance, and allow voters to update registration information online.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." But that arc does not bend towards justice without effort. We must put in the necessary hard work—and build the foundation and infrastructure—for justice to prevail. We can improve the health of our democracy by supporting this critical legislation, which would expand the ballot and update our voting technology. I urge all Senators to support the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2015.

#### 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

At 3:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2029. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House of Representatives to the resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill and joint resolution were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2029. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

H.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 261. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 612. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

S. 1034. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "Charles Clark United States Courthouse".

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 Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1179. A bill to exempt the aging process of distilled spirits from the production period for purposes of capitalization of interest costs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1180. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 1181. A bill to expand the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program to include commercial trucks and United States flagged vessels, to return unspent funds and loan proceeds to the United States Treasury to reduce the national debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1182. A bill to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1183. A bill to increase the participation of women, girls, and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields, to encourage and support students from all economic backgrounds to pursue STEM career opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1184. A bill to establish a grant program to promote the development of career education programs in computer science in secondary and postsecondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1185. A bill to better integrate STEM education into elementary and secondary instruction and curricula, to encourage high-quality STEM professional development, and to expand current mathematics and science education research to include engineering education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1186. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and to allow such bonds to be converted into tax credits to support public-private partnerships; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 1187. A bill to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, facilitate public-private partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND  
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 166. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that domestically grown flowers support the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States, enhance the ability of the people of the United States to honor their mothers on Mother's Day, and that the White House should strive to showcase domestically grown flowers; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Con. Res. 15. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition and the establishment of Balboa Park in San Diego, California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 125

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, *supra*.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 142

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 235, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 377

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare program and to reform payments for such services under such program, and for other purposes.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, a bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

S. 621

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of



S. 621, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety and effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials approved for use in the prevention and control of animal diseases, in order to minimize the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 689, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 711

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to amend section 520J of the Public Service Health Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, *supra*.

S. 780

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 780, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 799, a bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 876

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 876, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1049

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba.

S. 1073

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1073, a bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1131

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1131, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 1170

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1170, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1179. A bill to exempt the aging process of distilled spirits from the production period for purposes of capitalization of interest costs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this past Saturday, May 2, saw the running of the 141st Kentucky Derby, the most exciting 2 minutes in sports. Derby day is a cause for celebration across the State and derby celebrations often feature Kentucky's native spirit of bourbon. Bourbon is a key ingredient in the legendary Mint Julep, the official drink of the derby. Fittingly, today marks the 51st anniversary of the original congressional bourbon resolution that designated bourbon as a distinctive product of America.

Kentucky is the birthplace of bourbon. The drink is named for Bourbon County, KY, where the product first emerged, and today Kentucky produces 95 percent of the world's supply. The bourbon industry generates 15,400 jobs with an annual payroll of \$707 million statewide. It is a \$3 billion industry in Kentucky and a vital part of the State's tourism and economy. Simply put, the bourbon industry is a signature industry for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

That is why the legislation I introduce today is so important. I rise to introduce the Advancing Growth in the Economy through Distilled Spirits Act, or the AGED Spirits Act. Cosponsored by my friend Senator RAND PAUL, it will correct a provision in the tax code to ensure that Kentucky's bourbon producers are no longer at a disadvantage with their global competitors.

Under current law, unlike most other spirits, bourbon, and whiskey producers in America must capitalize the interest expense incurred to finance inventories, and it is not deductible until the product is sold, which could be as long as 23 years after a lengthy aging process.

In the United Kingdom, however, all spirit producers are permitted to deduct interest expense the year it is capitalized. This discrepancy is harmful to American makers of distilled spirits as it contributes to increased costs that directly create a competitive disadvantage for American products in the global marketplace.

My bill would fix this discrepancy by permitting American bourbon and whiskey producers to deduct interest



expense associated with production in the year it is paid by exempting the natural aging process in the determination of the production period for distilled spirits. This legislation will not only put Kentucky's bourbon industry on a level playing field with its global competitors, it is also a pro-growth measure that will help provide a boost to our economy and help create jobs in Kentucky.

Making this change in law is a matter of common sense. The situation under current law, where American bourbon and whiskey producers are not allowed to deduct the expenses related to storing and aging their product until it is bottled and sold, is akin to a homeowner not being able to deduct the interest on a home mortgage until the sale of the house.

Over the last several years, high-end premium American bourbons and whiskeys have enjoyed significant growth in volume both here in the U.S. and in international markets. Bourbon production has increased more than 150 percent since 1999. Given equitable tax treatment, American bourbon and whiskey products, as well as related jobs, could grow even more. Finally, this problem reveals just one of the many flaws in our Nation's broken tax code, which ultimately needs to be comprehensively reformed to promote even greater job creation and economic growth in our country.

So I hope my colleagues will join me in advancing growth in Kentucky's and America's economy by leveling the tax playing field for America's distilled spirits. Fifty-one years after its official recognition, bourbon is responsibly enjoyed by adults all over the world, and not just on Derby Day. The industry has grown and thrived, and I am sure it will continue to do so. I want to thank and congratulate all the hard-working Kentuckians who have contributed to building our State's vibrant bourbon industry.

I urge my colleagues to support the AGED Spirits Act, and I look forward to its swift passage.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1179

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Advancing Growth in the Economy through Distilled Spirits Act" or the "AGED Spirits Act".

#### SEC. 2. PRODUCTION PERIOD OF DISTILLED SPIRITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 263A(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5), and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) EXEMPTION FOR AGING PROCESS OF DISTILLED SPIRITS.—For purposes of this subsection, the production period shall not include the aging period for distilled spirits (as described in section 5002(a)(8))."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to the production of distilled spirits that begins on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1186. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and to allow such bonds to be converted into tax credits to support public-private partnerships; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, modern transportation infrastructure is a critical building block to ensure that the U.S. economy is in a position for long term growth and prosperity. It creates jobs, draws investment and supports overall global competitiveness. With the deadline for the Highway Trust Fund reauthorization looming just a month away, we are faced with the reality that our crumbling transportation systems simply are not up to the job.

Our aging infrastructure impacts everyone. Every day, Americans leave their homes to commute to work or school only to be faced with more than just snarled traffic, but roads in dire need of repair. More than one-fifth of U.S. roads are in poor condition, with nearly one-half trillion dollars in needed repairs across the country over the next decade.

U.S. ports, a critical economic doorway, are struggling under the weight of increased cargo traffic, leading to congestion and slowing exports. They now require nearly \$30 billion in landside investment alone to keep up with the general demands they are under. Our national infrastructure is in a clear state of decline, demanding \$3.6 trillion in total investment by 2020, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

For one of the largest economies in the world known for its strength and leadership, we are falling behind other countries. Our infrastructure spending has continued to decline since 1960. It is now at less than two percent of GDP annually. That falls behind China's nine percent and Europe's five. Meanwhile, our population continues to grow, placing new demands on our aging transportation system.

How do we get back on track and safeguard the health of our transportation infrastructure? The first step is for Congress to ensure the solvency of the trust funds for highways, transit, airports, ports, and waterways. Critical infrastructure projects demand long term planning and certainty, not a continual cycle of start-stop efforts. We must aim for a long-term, bipartisan solution so that every year states don't have to put projects on hold for fear of running out of funds.

Second, its time Congress looked beyond Washington and bring the private sector to the table to spur new financing partnerships that support our infrastructure needs.

There is an untapped opportunity here: Standard and Poor's estimates that private investors could provide more than \$100 billion in infrastructure investment each year. Public-private partnerships, P3s, are unique in that they offer upfront capital financing, along with the transfer of risk to the private partner, allowing for more efficient project design, construction and maintenance. P3s have been successful in the U.S., as well as other countries around the world.

Recognizing this pressing need and opportunity, today Senator HOEVEN and I are introducing the Move America program. Move America is designed to strengthen our transportation system by making it easier for the states to put together P3s and draw private investment. This unique, bipartisan driven proposal complements federal funding efforts, by creating cheaper and more effective financing tools to expand investment in roads, bridges, transit, ports, rail, and airports.

Move America expands tax exempt private activity bonds and creates a new infrastructure tax credit, giving stakeholders significant flexibility to pursue infrastructure projects that are badly needed in states and localities. And these tools are available for use regardless of who owns the project—government or private groups—making financing, management, and leasing arrangements much simpler. The bonds also exempt the interest income from the alternative minimum tax, making it an attractive proposal to investors.

For states that are hesitant to issue more debt, or that are looking to leverage more private equity, Move America credits would be available for the state to attract equity investors for infrastructure projects. The credits are available to the extent there is at least twice as much private investment in the project. This one-to-one match leverages additional equity investment at a lower cost to states and cities, lowering their capital costs or allowing them to reduce tolls or other revenues required for the project.

Critical transportation projects come to life in less time and at less cost to taxpayers. Americans can travel on safer footing. The private sector finds a new investment opportunity.

Strengthening our country's transportation infrastructure shouldn't be a political issue. It is time we come together and create a path to move America forward and build the 21st century infrastructure that our country deserves.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 166—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT DOMESTICALLY GROWN FLOWERS SUPPORT THE FARMERS, SMALL BUSINESSES, JOBS, AND ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES, ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO HONOR THEIR MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY, AND THAT THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD STRIVE TO SHOWCASE DOMESTICALLY GROWN FLOWERS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 166

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and greens grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend more than \$25,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including garden plants, bedding, indoor plants, and cut flowers;

Whereas 30 percent of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and greens from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments each year;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products, yet 74 percent of the people of the United States do not know where the flowers they purchase are grown, and 58 percent would prefer to buy locally grown flowers given the choice;

Whereas in response to increased demand, the "Certified American Grown Flowers" logo was created in July 2014, in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers from domestic producers;

Whereas as of April 2015, millions of stems of domestically grown flowers are now Certified American Grown;

Whereas domestic flower farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, and larkspur in Texas;

Whereas the 5 flower varieties with the highest United States production are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, irises, and gladiolas;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers, yet only 1 of 5 flowers sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower industry creates almost \$42,000,000 in economic impact daily and supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas more people in the United States are expressing interest in growing flowers locally, which has resulted in an approximately 20 percent increase in the number of domestic cut flower farms since 2007;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and greens are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas in 2014, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama highlighted their support for domestically grown flowers at the White House State Dinner with French President François Hollande, the only White House State Dinner that year;

Whereas the 2014 White House State Dinner featured quince branch from Mississippi,

weeping willow from New Jersey, Scotch broom from Virginia, iris from California, and alocasia, equisetum, nandina, and green liriopoe from Florida;

Whereas flower-giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas Mother's Day and Valentine's Day are 2 of the 3 top flower-giving holidays in the United States;

Whereas 38 percent of the people in the United States, spending more than \$2,000,000,000, buy flowers on Valentine's Day; and

Whereas flowers are even more popular on Mother's Day than on Valentine's Day, and in 2014, ⅓ of people in the United States celebrating Mother's Day purchased flowers, spending more than \$2,300,000,000: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) purchasing flowers grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(2) flowers and greens grown in the United States are a vital and integral part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(3) flowers grown in the United States enhance the ability of Americans to honor their mothers on Mother's Day; and

(4) the White House should strive to showcase flowers and greens grown in the United States to show support for the flower breeders, farmers, processors, and distributors of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 15—COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1915 PANAMA-CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BALBOA PARK IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. CON. RES. 15

Whereas in 1868, San Diego civic leaders set aside 1,400 acres of land, which became known as City Park;

Whereas in 1910, in preparation for the Panama-California Exposition hosted by San Diego, that park was named "Balboa Park" in honor of Spanish-born Vasco Núñez de Balboa, the first European to see the Pacific Ocean while exploring in present-day Panama;

Whereas the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition commemorated the opening of the Panama Canal and was the first of two expositions that added to Balboa Park's dramatic architecture;

Whereas in 1914, John D. and Adolph Spreckels donated the Spreckels Organ, one of the world's largest outdoor pipe organs, to the City of San Diego for the Panama-California Exposition, and this unique organ contains 4,530 pipes ranging in length from the size of a pencil to 32 feet and is housed in an ornate vaulted structure with highly embellished gables;

Whereas the San Diego Zoo was established in Balboa Park at the close of the Exposition in the fall of 1916, when Dr. Harry Wegeforth, a local physician, conceived the idea of starting a zoo after hearing the roar of a lion, one of the few wild animals displayed in cages at the Exposition, and the Balboa Zoo is now home to more than 3,700 rare and endangered animals representing over 660 spe-

cies and subspecies and a prominent botanical collection with more than 700,000 plants—a world famous conservation organization where visitors view exotic animals in habitat environments;

Whereas in 1926, the Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego, now The San Diego Museum of Art, opened to the public, and its renowned holdings include a fine selection of European old masters, 19th and 20th-century American art, an encyclopedic Asian collection, and growing collections of contemporary and Latin American art;

Whereas in 1933, the San Diego Natural History Museum opened within the park and is housed in a building created with Works Project Administration assistance;

Whereas in 1935-1936, Balboa Park hosted its second major exposition, the California Pacific International Exposition, which helped boost the local economy during the depression and added additional structures and landscaping, many of which now host cultural institutions and events;

Whereas the internationally acclaimed, Tony Award-winning Old Globe, one of the most esteemed regional theaters in the country, was founded within Balboa Park in 1935, and now boasts three unique venues: the historic Old Globe Theatre (built for the 1935 exposition and expanded and rebuilt in 1978), the intimate Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, and the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre;

Whereas Balboa Park helped support military efforts in World War I and World War II, when most of the buildings on the Central Mesa became adjuncts to the adjacent Naval hospital, the House of Hospitality became a nurses' dormitory, the Lily Pond became a rehabilitation pool, and 400 hospital beds were placed in the San Diego Fine Arts Gallery;

Whereas on December 25, 1946, the California Tower carillon was installed; whose chimes are still heard across the park on every quarter hour;

Whereas in 1978, two devastating fires struck Balboa Park, resulting in the destruction of the Electric Building, including the San Diego Aerospace Museum collection, and the 1935 Old Globe Theatre, both of which were rebuilt with private donations;

Whereas in the 1980's, the San Diego Model Railroad Museum, the Museum of Photographic Arts, the San Diego Automotive Museum and the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center all opened within Balboa Park;

Whereas in the 1990's, the beautiful Japanese Friendship Garden, the Mingei International Museum, the San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, the WorldBeat Center, and the Hall of Champions Sports Museum opened;

Whereas Balboa Park has grown to become the one of the nation's largest urban cultural parks, encompassing more than 1,172 acres, including 14 formal gardens, and the park is home to 15 major museums, nearly 100 arts, education, recreational, social and sports organizations, renowned performing arts venues, as well as the world famous San Diego Zoo;

Whereas Balboa Park celebrates history, art, music, science, and culture and has been a city treasure for one century; and

Whereas the 2015 centennial anniversary of the Panama-California Exposition and the establishment of Balboa Park is an achievement of historic proportions for the City of San Diego, the State of California, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Panama-California Exposition and the founding of Balboa Park in San Diego, California on May 9, 2015.

## FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Debbie Stabenow:									
Cuba .....	Peso .....		822.00						822.00
Christopher Adamo:									
Cuba .....	Peso .....		822.00						822.00
Total .....			1,644.00						1,644.00

SENATOR PAT ROBERTS,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Apr. 24, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
Cuba .....	Peso .....		822.00						822.00
Tim Rieser:									
Cuba .....	Peso .....		822.00						822.00
Kevin McDonald:									
Cuba .....	Peso .....		822.00						822.00
Senator Richard Durbin:									
Cuba .....	Peso .....		305.00						305.00
United States .....	Dollar .....		3.00		1,543.60		1.25		1,547.85
Chris Homan:									
Cuba .....	Peso .....		305.00						305.00
United States .....	Dollar .....		151.44		873.10				1,024.54
Paul Grove:									
Liberia .....	Dollar .....		780.00						780.00
Sierra Leone .....	Leone .....		488.00						488.00
Brussels .....	Euro .....		499.00						499.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,336.40				7,336.40
Laura Friedel:									
Liberia .....	Dollar .....		780.00						780.00
Sierra Leone .....	Leone .....		488.00						488.00
Brussels .....	Euro .....		499.00						499.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				9,997.40				9,997.40
Adam Yezerski:									
Liberia .....	Dollar .....		780.00						780.00
Sierra Leone .....	Leone .....		488.00						488.00
Brussels .....	Euro .....		499.00						499.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,336.40				7,336.40
Delegation Expenses:*									
Cuba .....	Peso .....						4,728.00		4,728.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Liberia .....	Dollar .....				800.00		94.92		894.92
Delegation Expenses:*									
Sierra Leone .....	Leone .....				2,800.00		1,170.00		3,970.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Brussels .....	Euro .....						762.33		762.33
Total .....			8,531.44		30,686.90		6,756.50		45,974.84

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR THAD COCHRAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,  
Apr. 20, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015.

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				19,675.00				19,675.00
United Arab Emirates .....	Dirham .....		33.77						33.77
Israel .....	Shekel .....		57.23						57.23
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Arab Emirates .....	Dirham .....						926.37		926.37
Israel .....	Shekel .....						3,565.76		3,565.76
Senator John McCain:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				16,336.52				16,336.52
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		334.09						334.09
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		253.45						253.45
Israel .....	Shekel .....		511.97						511.97
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		333.42						333.42
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		337.57						337.57
Israel .....	Shekel .....		547.31						547.31

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015.—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		38.27						38.27
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		27.28						27.28
Israel .....	Shekel .....		31.82						31.82
Matthew Rinkunas:									
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		127.97						127.97
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		27.64						27.64
Israel .....	Shekel .....		81.64						81.64
Senator Tim Kaine:									
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		336.09						336.09
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		253.45						253.45
Israel .....	Shekel .....		511.97						511.97
Senator Joe Donnelly:									
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		333.42						333.42
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		261.69						261.69
Israel .....	Shekel .....		701.97						701.97
Senator Angus King:									
United States .....	Dollar .....		70.33						70.33
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		27.64						27.64
Israel .....	Shekel .....		81.64						81.64
Delegation Expenses:*									
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....					3,099.06			3,099.06
Qatar .....	Riyal .....					2,405.37			2,405.37
Israel .....	Shekel .....					12,913.84			12,913.84
Senator John McCain:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		805.30						805.30
Christian Brose:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		775.71						775.71
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		765.03						765.03
Senator Kelly Ayotte:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		667.49						667.49
Senator Joni Ernst:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		93.25						93.25
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		147.07						147.07
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		862.87						862.87
Senator Ted Cruz:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		671.34						671.34
Delegation Expenses:									
Germany .....	Euro .....				5,565.40		12,594.16		18,159.56
Tunisia .....	Dinar .....				304.21				304.21
Ozge Guzelsu:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				19,237.73				19,237.73
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		1,088.00						1,088.00
India .....	Rupee .....		300.00						300.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
India .....	Rupee .....					865.52			865.52
Kathryn Wheelbarger:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,046.00				13,046.00
Turkey .....	Lira .....		374.40						374.40
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		944.24						944.24
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		333.42						333.42
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		527.93						527.93
Thomas Goffus:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,046.00				13,046.00
Turkey .....	Lira .....		374.70						374.70
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		554.58						554.58
Adam Barker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,046.00				13,046.00
Turkey .....	Lira .....		374.40						374.40
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		951.16						951.16
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		333.43						333.43
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		531.90						531.90
Michael Noblet:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,046.00				13,046.00
Turkey .....	Lira .....		353.70						353.70
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		906.60						906.60
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		340.42						340.42
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		484.90						484.90
Michael Kuiken:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,046.00				13,046.00
Turkey .....	Lira .....		374.40						374.40
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		925.16						925.16
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		524.46						524.46
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		333.42						333.42
Delegation Expenses:*									
Turkey .....	Lira .....					61.32			61.32
Qatar .....	Riyal .....					827.84			827.84
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....					752.81			752.81
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....					314.50			314.50
Senator Tim Kaine:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,486.82				5,486.82
Mexico .....	Peso .....		702.13						702.13
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		362.29						362.29
Colombia .....	Peso .....		845.07						845.07
Mary Naylor:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				4,206.00				4,206.00
Mexico .....	Peso .....		726.35						726.35
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		362.29						362.29
Colombia .....	Peso .....		843.60						843.60
Amy Dudley:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				2,626.32				2,626.32
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		397.34						397.34
Delegation Expenses:*									
Mexico .....	Peso .....					2,290.60			2,290.60
Honduras .....	Lempira .....					12,380.50			12,380.50
Colombia .....	Peso .....					2,511.33			2,511.33
Senator Jack Reed:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,363.20				12,363.20
Elizabeth King:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,363.20				12,363.20
William Monahan:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,363.20				12,363.20

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015.—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Delegation Expenses:*									
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....						636.00		636.00
Iraq .....	Dinar .....				62,675.00		183.00		62,858.00
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,330.40				11,330.40
Belgium .....	Euro .....		890.31						890.31
Sandra Luff:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,330.40				11,330.40
Belgium .....	Euro .....		1,133.16						1,133.16
Delegation Expenses:*									
Belgium .....	Euro .....						587.00		587.00
Total .....			27,313.45		261,093.40		56,914.98		345,321.83

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95—384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Apr. 24, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
David Gillers:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,524.70				15,524.70
Qatar .....	Qatari Riyal .....		1,377.10						1,377.10
Total .....			1,377.10		15,524.70				16,901.80

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Apr. 21, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Christopher Campbell:									
Belgium .....	Euro .....		944.98						944.98
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,953.90				10,953.90
Delegation Expenses:*									
United States .....	Dollar .....						267.47		267.47
Total .....			944.98		10,953.90		267.47		12,166.35

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95—384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ORRIN HATCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Apr. 20, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Israel .....	Shekel .....		701.97						701.97
Qatar .....	Riyal .....		225.81						225.81
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		333.42						333.42
Delegation Expenses:*									
Israel .....	Shekel .....						1,844.83		1,844.83
Qatar .....	Riyal .....						343.62		343.62
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....						442.72		442.72
Senator Bob Corker:									
Israel .....	Shekel .....		853.42						853.42
United States .....	Dollar .....				6,013.40				6,013.40
Michael Gallagher:									
Israel .....	Shekel .....		902.78						902.78
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,126.30				7,126.30
Delegation Expenses:*									
Israel .....	Shekel .....						3,689.66		3,689.66
Senator Bob Corker:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		702.36						702.36
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		822.00						822.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,676.80				5,676.80
Jessica Ellledge:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		822.00						822.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,063.80				1,063.80
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany .....	Euro .....						6,526.09		6,526.09
Senator Bob Corker:									
Kuwait .....	Riyal .....		590.61						590.61
Iraq .....	Dollar .....		93.33						93.33
Turkey .....	Lira .....		559.99						559.99

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States .....	Dollar .....				17,250.60				17,250.60
Todd Womack:									
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		590.61						590.61
Iraq .....	Dollar .....		93.33						93.33
Turkey .....	Lira .....		664.87						664.87
United States .....	Dollar .....				17,250.60				17,250.60
Michael Gallagher:									
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		385.34						385.34
Iraq .....	Dollar .....		115.79						115.79
Turkey .....	Lira .....		589.66						589.66
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,262.30				13,262.30
Delegation Expenses: *									
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....						381.09		381.09
Iraq .....	Dollar .....						3,450.00		3,450.00
Turkey .....	Lira .....						400.06		400.06
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Belgium .....	Euro .....		839.58						839.58
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,166.90				15,166.90
Jessica Ellledge:									
Belgium .....	Euro .....		1,666.00						1,666.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				6,923.20				6,923.20
Chris Socha:									
Belgium .....	Euro .....		913.25						913.25
United States .....	Dollar .....				2,445.20				2,445.20
Delegation Expenses: *									
Belgium .....	Euro .....						587.50		587.50
Leah Cato:									
Mexico .....	Peso .....		726.35						726.35
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		693.29						693.29
Colombia .....	Peso .....		501.12						501.12
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,486.82				5,486.82
Delegation Expenses: *									
Mexico .....	Peso .....						377.33		377.33
Honduras .....	Lempira .....						1,084.83		1,084.83
Colombia .....	Peso .....						570.66		570.66
Jodi Herman:									
Egypt .....	Pound .....		1,009.47						1,009.47
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,632.90				3,632.90
Dana Stroul:									
Egypt .....	Pound .....		1,164.00						1,164.00
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....		507.60						507.60
United States .....	Dollar .....				4,790.00				4,790.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Egypt .....	Pound .....						175.00		175.00
Chris Socha:									
Moldova .....	Leu .....		402.00						402.00
Hungary .....	Forint .....		496.93						496.93
Montenegro .....	Euro .....		486.00						486.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,449.00				5,449.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Hungary .....	Forint .....						30.00		30.00
Montenegro .....	Euro .....						152.00		152.00
Total .....			18,452.88		111,537.82		20,055.39		150,046.09

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Apr. 24, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Thomas R. Carper:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				2,229.39				2,229.39
Mexico .....	Peso .....		724.00						724.00
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		342.00						342.00
Bias Nunez-Neto:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,529.39				1,529.39
Mexico .....	Peso .....		724.00						724.00
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		226.00						226.00
Holly Idelson:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,514.39				1,514.39
Mexico .....	Peso .....		577.00						577.00
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		223.48						223.48
Delegation Expenses: *									
Mexico .....	Peso .....						492.00		492.00
Honduras .....	Lempira .....						1,112.00		1,112.00
Total .....			2,816.48		5,273.17		1,604.00		9,693.65

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs,  
Mar. 4, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Cory A. Booker:									
Germany	Euro		620.00				74.32		694.32
Total			620.00				74.32		694.32

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,  
Apr. 28, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Cuba	Peso		660.30						660.30
Lacy Dwyer:									
Cuba	Peso		624.00						624.00
Delegation Expenses:									
Cuba	Peso						945.60		945.60
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Germany	Euro		749.46						749.46
Lacy Dwyer:									
Germany	Euro		739.46						739.46
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro						4,539.89		4,539.89
Tunisia	Dinar						26.45		26.45
Senator John Cornyn:									
United States	Dollar				6,240.72				6,240.72
Mexico	Peso		779.36						779.36
Honduras	Lempira		362.29						362.29
David Hanke:									
United States	Dollar				6,066.84				6,066.84
Mexico	Peso		729.97						729.97
Honduras	Lempira		362.29						362.29
Delegation Expenses:*									
Mexico	Peso						2,290.67		2,290.67
Honduras	Lempira						2,169.67		2,169.67
Total:			5,007.13		12,307.56		9,972.28		27,286.97

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Apr. 28, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Tressa Guenov:	Dollar		342.00						342.00
	Dollar		252.00						252.00
Ryan Tully:					11,789.00				11,789.00
	Dollar		342.00						342.00
	Dollar		252.00						252.00
Brian Walsh:					11,789.00				11,789.00
	Dollar		342.00						342.00
	Dollar		252.00						252.00
Senator James Lankford:					11,789.00				11,789.00
	Dollar		382.00						382.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Senator Thomas Cotton:									
	Dollar		382.00						382.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Senator Daniel Coats:									
	Dollar		382.00						382.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Senator Roy Blunt:									
	Dollar		382.00						382.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Senator Richard Burr:									
	Dollar		382.00						382.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Robert Kadlac:									
	Dollar		282.00						282.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Ryan Tully:									
	Dollar		282.00						282.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Thomas Hawkins:									
	Dollar		282.00						282.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Christian Cook:									
	Dollar		282.00						282.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Matthew Pollard:									
	Dollar		282.00						282.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Tyler Stephens:									
	Dollar		282.00						282.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Brian Miller:									
	Dollar		282.00						282.00
	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Randy Bookout:									
	Dollar		382.00						382.00
	Dollar		348.00						348.00
Paul Matulic:					12,544.00				12,544.00
	Dollar		348.00						348.00
					9,433.30				9,433.30
Christian Cook:									
	Dollar		348.00						348.00
	Dollar		382.00						382.00
					9,433.30				9,433.30



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total			10,930.00		66,777.60				77,707.60

SENATOR RICHARD BURR,  
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Apr. 24, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
David Killion:									
Austria	Euro		1,548.58						1,548.58
United States	Dollar				11,745.50				11,745.50
Total			1,548.58		11,745.50				13,294.08

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,  
Co-Chairman, Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe,  
Apr. 23, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
Germany	Dollar		780.85						780.85
Total			780.85						780.85

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Chairman, Committee on Majority Leader, Apr. 1, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
Cuba	Peso		738.43						738.43
Total			738.43						738.43

SENATOR HARRY REID,  
Chairman, Committee on Democratic Leader, Apr. 16, 2015.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE  
SENATE THAT DOMESTICALLY  
GROWN FLOWERS SUPPORT THE  
FARMERS, SMALL BUSINESSES,  
JOBS, AND ECONOMY OF THE  
UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 166, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 166) expressing the sense of the Senate that domestically grown flowers support the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States, enhance the ability of the people of the United States to honor their mothers on Mother's Day, and that the White House

should strive to showcase domestically grown flowers.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for American flower growers, having submitted a resolution designating Mother's Day, May 10, 2015, as a special day to honor the role that domestically grown flowers play in the ability of Americans to honor their mothers. This resolution is cosponsored by Senators BARBARA BOXER and LISA MURKOWSKI.

Americans truly care about where the goods they purchase and the foods they eat are produced. They have a strong desire to support their local economies and help their communities thrive. And purchasing agricultural products grown in our country supports American farmers. American-grown agricultural products are often fresher

and last longer than imports because they are not shipped as far as products grown abroad.

This is also the case for American-grown flowers. The majority of Americans would prefer to buy more locally grown flowers if given the choice, yet only one out of every five flowers sold in the United States is grown in the country.

Every State has access to domestically grown flowers, but three-quarters of Americans do not know where the flowers they purchase are grown.

American-grown flowers create almost \$42 million in economic impact per day. These flowers not only support the flower growers but also the 16,000 florists and floral establishments across the country that sell them.

Many of these growers and florists run small businesses that are critical to our Nation's economic strength. They create jobs and contribute to the

economy of their respective communities. These businesses produce flowers that provide a beautiful and elegant way for Americans to show affection for their family members and loved ones.

The popularity of American-grown flowers is increasing, and I am pleased to see that the White House is involved in promoting American-grown flowers as well. Last year, the First Lady highlighted the beauty of domestic flowers by displaying a number of varieties at the only State Dinner of the year. The dinner featured flowers from Mississippi, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, and, I am proud to say, California.

California is the largest cut flower producer in the Nation. The State grows more than 116 types of flowers, including roses, irises, lilies, tulips, and gerbera. At my home in San Francisco, I maintain a garden filled with many of the flowers and plants that flourish across California. My garden has beautiful magnolias, azaleas, pansies, and dahlias. I also have drought-resistant gazanias, which is more important than ever given the severe water shortage in the State.

When you give someone a California-grown flower, it was most likely harvested within the last 48 hours. I am delighted that my State is home to the flowers that help Americans show their loved ones how much they care.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring American-grown flowers this Mother's Day. I hope that this resolution will remind consumers about how they can support local farmers when they shop for flowers this Mother's Day.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed

to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 166) was agreed to.

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

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Senators should expect a vote on the motion to proceed to the budget conference report at approximately 10:15 tomorrow morning.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:36 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### UNITED STATES TAX COURT

ELIZABETH ANN COPELAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE DIANE L. KROUPA, RETIRED.

##### IN THE ARMY

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

##### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL X. GARRETT

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 major general*

BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW P. BEEVERS

##### IN THE NAVY

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

##### *To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. JOHN N. CHRISTENSON

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 (lower half)*

CAPT. SHOSHANA S. CHATFIELD

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 04, 2015:

##### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WILLIE E. MAY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

# 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 Monday, May 4, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on the importance of a long term reauthorization.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wild-fire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

To hold hearings to examine the legal implications of the Clean Power Plan.

SD-406

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control

To hold hearings to examine improving management of the controlled substances quota process.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

SR-328A

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine precision medicine for patients.

SD-430

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SR-418

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of State.

SD-419

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and S. 1036, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans or the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, S. 855, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, S. 736, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decisionmaking under such Act, S. 655, to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to make a final determination on the listing of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, S. 468, to provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer, S. 293, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements, S. 292, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, S. 112, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and

make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published, and S. 1081, to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine ensuring an informed citizenry, focusing on examining the Administration's efforts to improve open government.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

To hold hearings to examine global health problems.

SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Elliott III, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on the role of consumer information in college choice.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 280, to improve the efficiency, management, and interagency coordination of the Federal permitting process through reforms overseen by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, S. 1180, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, S. 750, to achieve border security on certain Federal lands along the Southern border, S. 282, to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, S. 1109, to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, S. 1172, to improve the process of presidential transition, S. 434, to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, H.R. 623, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, S. 179, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial

• 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.

Post Office Building", S. 994, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building", and the nominations of David Michael Bennett, of North Carolina, Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico, Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, and James C. Miller, III, of Virginia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Department of Defense  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

2 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine aging in place, focusing on advances in technology that help seniors live independently.

SH-216

2:15 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dale A. Drozd, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Lawrence Joseph Vilardo, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, and LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, and Ann Donnelly, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations  
Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy  
To hold oversight hearings to examine multilateral and bilateral international development programs and policies.

SD-419

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine the impact of federal labor and safety laws on the U.S. seafood industry.

SR-428A

MAY 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine child nutrition programs.

SH-216

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine rural health.

SD-124

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine safeguarding American interests in the East and South China Seas.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine social media in the next evolution of terrorist recruitment.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 1137, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Justice.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MAY 11

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Airland  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SR-222

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on SeaPower  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine S. 883, to facilitate the reestablishment of domestic, critical mineral designation, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, workforce, education, and research capabilities in the United States.

SD-366

11 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SR-222

2 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SD-106

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SD-106

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SD-106

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SR-222

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs  
Business meeting to consider S. 986, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Bureau of Indian Education, focusing on organizational challenges in transforming educational opportunities for Indian children.

SD-628

MAY 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SR-222

MAY 15

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SR-222

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

**Routine Proceedings, pages S2593–S2609**

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1179–1187, S. Res. 166, and S. Con. Res. 15. **Page S2599**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 261, to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

S. 1034, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “Charles Clark United States Courthouse”. **Page S2598**

#### Measures Passed:

**Domestic Flower Production:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 166, expressing the sense of the Senate that domestically grown flowers support the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States, enhance the ability of the people of the United States to honor their mothers on Mother’s Day, and that the White House should strive to showcase domestically grown flowers. **Pages S2608–09**

#### Veto Messages:

**National Labor Relations Board Veto Message—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the veto message to accompany S. J. Res. 8, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures. **Pages S2594–97**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the veto message to accompany the joint resolution at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. **Page S2609**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 93 yeas (Vote No. EX. 169), Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology. **Page S2597**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Elizabeth Ann Copeland, of Texas, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral. **Page S2609**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S2598**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S2598**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S2599–S2600**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S2600–02**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—169) **Page S2597**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:36 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2609.)

### 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 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

## Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D411)

S. 535, to promote energy efficiency. Signed on April 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–11)

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* to hold hearings to examine the U.S. Grain Standards Act, 2:30 p.m., SR–328A.

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on the importance of a long term reauthorization, 10 a.m., SR–253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* to hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wildfire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations, 10 a.m., SD–366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the legal implications of the Clean Power Plan, 10 a.m., SD–406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of State, 3:30 p.m., SD–419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine precision medicine for patients, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

*United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control:* to hold hearings to examine improving management of the controlled substances quota process, 10 a.m., SD–226.

#### House

No hearings are scheduled.

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### CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 4 through May 8, 2015

#### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 10 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8, National Labor Relations Board Veto Message.

At approximately 10:15 a.m., Senators should expect a vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the Budget Conference report.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* May 5, to hold hearings to examine the U.S. Grain Standards Act, 2:30 p.m., SR–328A.

May 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine child nutrition programs, 10 a.m., SH–216.

*Committee on Appropriations:* May 5, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

May 6, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine global health problems, 10 a.m., SD–124.

May 6, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

May 7, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine rural health, 10 a.m., SD–124.

May 7, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Justice, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* May 5, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on the importance of a long term reauthorization, 10 a.m., SR-253.

May 6, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Elliott III, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* May 5, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wildfire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations, 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* May 5, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the legal implications of the Clean Power Plan, 10 a.m., SD-406.

May 6, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and S. 1036, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans or the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, S. 855, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, S. 736, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decisionmaking under such Act, S. 655, to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to make a final determination on the listing of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, S. 468, to provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer, S. 293, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements, S. 292, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, S. 112, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published, and S. 1081, to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System, 9:30 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* May 5, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of State, 3:30 p.m., SD-419.

May 6, Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy, to hold oversight hearings to examine multilateral and bilateral international development programs and policies, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

May 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine safeguarding American interests in the East and South China Seas, 10 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* May 5, to hold hearings to examine precision medicine for patients, 2:30 p.m., SD-430.

May 6, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on the role of consumer information in college choice, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* May 6, business meeting to consider S. 280, to improve the efficiency, management, and interagency coordination of the Federal permitting process through reforms overseen by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, S. 1180, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, S. 750, to achieve border security on certain Federal lands along the Southern border, S. 282, to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, S. 1109, to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, S. 1172, to improve the process of presidential transition, S. 434, to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, H.R. 623, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, S. 179, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building", S. 994, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building", and the nominations of David Michael Bennett, of North Carolina, Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico, Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, and James C. Miller, III, of Virginia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 10 a.m., SD-342.

May 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine social media in the next evolution of terrorist recruitment, 10 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* May 6, to hold hearings to examine ensuring an informed citizenry, focusing on examining the Administration's efforts to improve open government, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.



May 6, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dale A. Drozd, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Lawrence Joseph Vilardo, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, and LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, and Ann Donnelly, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, 2:15 p.m., SD-226.

May 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 1137, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, 10 a.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* May 6, to hold hearings to examine the impact of federal labor and safety laws on the U.S. seafood industry, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* May 5, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SR-418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* May 5, to receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

May 7, Full Committee, to receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging:* May 6, to hold hearings to examine aging in place, focusing on advances in technology that help seniors live independently, 2 p.m., SH-216.

*United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control:* May 5, to hold hearings to examine improving management of the controlled substances quota process, 10 a.m., SD-226.

### House Committees

No hearings are scheduled.

# Résumé of Congressional Activity

## FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.

The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

### DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 6 through April 30, 2015

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session .....	60	57	..
Time in session .....	379 hrs., 37'	249 hrs., 38'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings .....	2,592	2,774	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	638	..
Public bills enacted into law .....	1	10	11
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	1	..	..
Measures passed, total .....	124	162	286
Senate bills .....	10	2	..
House bills .....	9	92	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	1	1	..
House joint resolutions .....	1	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	4	3	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	8	11	..
Simple resolutions .....	91	51	..
Measures reported, total .....	*59	*96	155
Senate bills .....	36	..	..
House bills .....	2	69	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	1	..
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	3	..
Simple resolutions .....	20	23	..
Special reports .....	10	2	..
Conference reports .....	..	1	..
Measures pending on calendar .....	48	16	..
Measures introduced, total .....	1,362	2,527	3,889
Bills .....	1,169	2,194	..
Joint resolutions .....	14	48	..
Concurrent resolutions .....	14	43	..
Simple resolutions .....	165	242	..
Quorum calls .....	5	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes .....	168	109	..
Recorded votes .....	..	97	..
Bills vetoed .....	2	..	..
Veto overridden .....	..	..	..

### DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 6 through April 30, 2015

Civilian nominations, totaling 181, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed .....	23
Unconfirmed .....	157
Withdrawn .....	1
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 1,262, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed .....	634
Unconfirmed .....	628
Air Force nominations, totaling 3,139, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed .....	2,691
Unconfirmed .....	448
Army nominations, totaling 202, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed .....	109
Unconfirmed .....	93
Navy nominations, totaling 424, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed .....	64
Unconfirmed .....	360
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,042, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed .....	779
Unconfirmed .....	263
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominations carried over from the First Session .....	0
Total nominations received this Session .....	6,250
Total confirmed .....	4,300
Total unconfirmed .....	1,949
Total withdrawn .....	1
Total returned to the White House .....	0

\*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 34 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 96 reports have been filed in the House.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 5

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 5

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the veto message to accompany S. J.Res. 8, National Labor Relations Board Veto Message.

At approximately 10:15 a.m., Senators should expect a vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the Budget Conference report.

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** The House is scheduled to meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.



## Congressional Record

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