

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3159–S3227*

**Measures Introduced:** Sixty-one bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1229–1289, S.J. Res. 42–43, and S. Res. 179–183.

**Pages S3211–13**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 512, to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–86)

S. 692, to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–87)

S. Res. 176, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

S. 722, to impose sanctions with respect to Iran in relation to Iran's ballistic missile program, support for acts of international terrorism, and violations of human rights, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**Page S3210**

#### Measures Passed:

***Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act:*** Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 12, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

**Pages S3189–90**

McConnell (for Moran) Amendment No. 218, to improve the bill by striking section 2, relating to reduction of benefits for senior executives and certain health care employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs convicted of a felony.

**Pages S3189–90**

***Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act:*** Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 114, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses

awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the bill was then passed.

**Page S3190**

***Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act:*** Senate passed S. 585, to provide greater whistleblower protections for Federal employees, increased awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and increased accountability and required discipline for Federal supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers, after agreeing to the committee amendments.

**Pages S3190–94**

***National Public Works Week:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 181, designating the week of May 21 through May 27, 2017, as "National Public Works Week".

**Page S3225**

***Melanoma Awareness Month:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 182, designating May 2017 as "Melanoma Awareness Month".

**Page S3225**

***Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 183, recognizing the significance of May 2017 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

**Page S3225**

***Digital Coast Act:*** Senate passed S. 110, to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region.

**Pages S3225–26**

***Silver Star Service Banner Day Act:*** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 917, to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May 1 as "Silver Star Service Banner Day", and the bill was then passed.

**Pages S3226–27**

**Follow the Rules Act:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 657, to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and the bill was then passed. **Page S3227**

**Reunification of Jerusalem 50th Anniversary—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following Leader remarks on Monday, June 5, 2017, Senate begin consideration of S. Res. 176, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; and that at 5:30 p.m., Senate vote on adoption of the resolution, with no amendments or motions in order to the resolution or the preamble. **Page S3186**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, June 5, 2017, Senate begin consideration of the resolution as under the previous order. **Page S3194**

**Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following disposition of the nomination of Courtney Elwood, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, Senate begin consideration of S. 1094, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be adopted, and that there be three hours of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S3194**

**Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 26, 2017 at 8:45 a.m.; Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7 a.m.; Friday, June 2, 2017 at 9 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, June 2, 2017, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, June 5, 2017. **Page S3227**

**Elwood Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Courtney Elwood, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, be withdrawn, and that following Leader remarks on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, with the time equally divided until 2:15 p.m.;

and that at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

**Page S3179**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 137), Amul R. Thapar, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. **Pages S3161–79, S3227**

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

54 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

22 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S3186–88**

David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

Kari A. Bingen, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Robert Story Kareem, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. **Page S3188**

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

Robert R. Hood, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Richard Ashooh, of New Hampshire, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

J. Paul Compton, Jr., of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Neal J. Rackleff, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Karen Dunn Kelley, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

David S. Jonas, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Gilbert B. Kaplan, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

Michael Arthur Raynor, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Brett Giroir, of Texas, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to the qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Heather L. MacDougall, of Florida, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2023.

Callista L. Gingrich, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Holy See.

George Nesterzuk, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Page S3227

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

James Donovan, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, which was sent to the Senate on May 16, 2017.

Page S3227

**Messages from the House:** Pages S3209–10

**Measures Referred:** Page S3210

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** Page S3210

**Executive Reports of Committees:** Pages S3210–11

**Additional Cosponsors:** Pages S3213–15

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
Pages S3215–25

**Additional Statements:** Pages S3208–09

**Amendments Submitted:** Page S3225

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** Page S3225

**Privileges of the Floor:** Page S3225

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—137) Page S3179

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:23 p.m., until 8:45 a.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3227.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### THE FARM ECONOMY

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Farm Economy, focusing on perspectives on rural America, after receiving testimony from Robert Johansson, Chief Economist, Department of Agriculture; Nathan S. Kauffman, Assistant Vice President, Economist, and Omaha Branch Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; Alec Sheffer, Agri-AFC, Montgomery, Alabama; and Bruce Weber, Oregon State University, and Rural Policy Research Institute, Corvallis.

### APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2018 for the Department of Homeland

Security, after receiving testimony from John F. Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2018 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Robert M. Speer, Acting Secretary of the Army, and General Mark A. Milley, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army, both of the Department of Defense.

### PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2018, after receiving testimony from Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Neil Chatterjee, of Kentucky, who was introduced by Senator McConnell, and Robert F. Powelson, of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senator Toomey, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, who was introduced by Senator Cornyn, to be Deputy Secretary, all of the Department of Energy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY BUDGET

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2018 for the Department of the Treasury, and tax reform, after receiving testimony from Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 722, to impose sanctions with respect to Iran in relation to Iran's ballistic missile program, support for acts of international terrorism, and violations of human rights, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1221, to counter the influence of the Russian Federation in Europe and Eurasia, with amendments;

S. 905, to require a report on, and to authorize technical assistance for, accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Syria, with amendments;

H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality