

United States National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in 2003, and being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Václav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic, in 2005;

Whereas, on July 22, 2012, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas and Harold Cepero, a fellow pro-democracy activist, died in a troubling car crash in Granma Province, Cuba after being followed by government agents;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has failed to conduct a credible investigation into the car crash that led to the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas the trial and conviction of Ángel Carrero, a youth leader of the People's Party who was visiting Cuba and driving the car at the time of the crash, did not include testimony from key witnesses, and did not resolve questions about whether another car was involved or whether Mr. Carrero was coerced by the Government of Cuba into signing a false statement of guilt;

Whereas, in 2012, the United States Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 525, 112th Congress, agreed to July 24, 2012, honoring the life and legacy of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas, in 2013, a number of United States Senators and the United States Department of State called for an impartial, third-party investigation by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States into the circumstances surrounding the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas, in 2013, Ángel Carrero spoke in detail during an interview with The Washington Post about being hit by another car during the crash, being mistreated and coerced by Cuban authorities following the crash, and being made the "scapegoat" by the Government of Cuba for the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas the dissidents of the "Black Spring" have been released from prison, but many political prisoners remain imprisoned in Cuba despite trails that failed to meet international due process standards; and

Whereas the 2016 Human Rights Report on Cuba by the United States Department of State cited ongoing human rights abuses by the Government of Cuba, namely "the abridgement of the ability of citizens to choose their government; the use of government threats, physical assault, intimidation, and violent government-organized counter protests against peaceful dissent; and harassment and detentions to prevent free expression and peaceful assembly.": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commemorates the legacy of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas on the 5th anniversary of his death on July 22, 2017;

(2) honors the commitment of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas to democratic values and principles;

(3) calls on the Government of Cuba to allow an impartial, third-party investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

(4) urges the United States to continue to support policies and programs that promote respect for human rights and democratic principles in Cuba in a manner that is consistent with the aspirations of the Cuban people;

(5) urges the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States to continue reporting on human rights issues in Cuba, and to request a visit to Cuba in order to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas; and

(6) calls on the Government of Cuba to cease violating human rights and to begin providing democratic political freedoms to

Cuban citizens, including freedom of association, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free elections, freedom to start private businesses, and amnesty for political prisoners.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday July 19, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hold a "Nominations Hearing."

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

That the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Legislative Hearing on S. 1514, the Hunting Heritage and Environmental Legacy Preservation (HELP) for Wildlife Act."

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Nominations."

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, at 10 a.m. in SD-430. We will be considering the following: Nomination of Marvin Kaplan to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board Nomination of William Emanuel to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 10 a.m. for a business meeting to consider pending committee business.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, upon conclusion of the preceding business meeting, in order to conduct a hearing titled "The Postal Service's Actions During the 2016 Campaign Season: Implications for the Hatch Act."

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., in SR-418, to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 9 a.m. in room SH-216 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold an open hearing entitled "Open Hearing on the Nomination of Susan Gordon to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence preceded by Robert P. Storch to be Inspector General of the National Security Agency, and Isabela Patelunas to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of the Treasury."

##### COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 2 p.m. in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a Closed Hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Subcommittee on National Parks is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME; CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime; Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Women's Issues is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 4:15 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "The Collapse of the Rule of Law in Venezuela: What the United States and the International Community Can Do to Restore Democracy."

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Janine Kritschgau, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U. S. Air Force Academy: the Honorable STEVE DAINES of

Montana (Committee on Appropriations).

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, July 20; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bush nomination; further, that all postcloture time on the Bush nomination expire at 12:15 p.m.; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the Bernhardt nomination occur at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow.

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

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 5:32 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 20, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STEPHEN CENSKY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE KRYSTA L. HARDEN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOSEPH KERNAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE, VICE MARCEL JOHN LETTRE II.

GUY B. ROBERTS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ANDREW CHARLES WEBER.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

HESTER MARIA PEIRCE, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2020, VICE LUIS AGUILAR, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MICHAEL DOURSON, OF OHIO, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE JAMES J. JONES.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JOHN J. BARTRUM, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE ELLEN GLONINGER MURRAY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PETER HENRY BARLERIN, OF COLORADO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DANIEL J. KANIEWSKI, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE TIMOTHY W. MANNING.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KURT G. ALME, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL W. COTTER, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

ANNEMARIE CARNEY AXON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN

DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE SHARON LOVELACE BLACKBURN, RETIRED.

LILES CLIFTON BURKE, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE C. LYNWOOD SMITH, JR., RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DONALD Q. COCHRAN, JR., OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID RIVERA, RESIGNED.

RUSSELL M. COLEMAN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID J. HALE, RESIGNED.

PETER E. DEEGAN, JR., OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KEVIN W. TECHAU, RESIGNED.

J. CODY HILAND, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHRISTOPHER R. THYER, RESIGNED.

MARC KRICKBAUM, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE NICHOLAS A. KLINEFELDT, RESIGNED.

BRIAN J. KUESTER, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MARK F. GREEN, RESIGNED.

R. TRENT SHORES, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DANNY CHAPPELLE WILLIAMS, SR., RESIGNED.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 19, 2017 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

JAMES CLINGER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE JEREMIAH O'HEAR NORTON, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 19, 2017.

JAMES CLINGER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MARTIN J. GRUENBERG, TERM EXPIRING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 19, 2017.