

that is a part of it, is no better than the true commitment of a nation to a member of NATO to live up to the organizing documents and commitments we make to one another; meaning that we have a commitment, along with our partners in NATO, that if one of us is attacked, we have all been attacked. That has only been invoked one time in its history, and that was after September 11, 2001.

If he somehow could not just keep us from expanding NATO but begin to undermine it from within, it would be an enormous victory because, again, for him, it would be a sign that America is diminishing, that the threats against him are diminishing, and his influence and Russia's role in the world has increased.

So this is an important meeting. It probably will not be the last time they meet, but more important than the meeting are the issues at play between the leader in Russia who views everything as a zero-sum game, in which either he wins or America wins, but it can't be mutually beneficial.

We have to deal with him. He possesses a significant percentage of the world's nuclear weapons. Between the United States and Russia, we have 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons in these two countries. We do have to talk to him, but we need to be very clear-eyed; that is, that it is a complicated but important relationship, and we should clearly understand what motivates him and what motivates his decision making and what their ultimate goals are in any conversation we have.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 912.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Kelly Higashi, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Higashi nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 913.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Emory A. Rounds III, of Maine, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rounds nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 924.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Georgette Mosbacher, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Poland.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mosbacher nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for 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.

HONORING THE FALLEN OF THE "YANKY 72" CRASH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I would like to call attention to a special event occurring this Saturday in Mississippi to honor 16 brave servicemembers who lost their lives a year ago in a tragic military aircraft crash.

I look forward to joining family members, Marine Corps leaders, and the people of Leflore County, MS, to honor the 15 marines and one Navy corpsman who died on July 10, 2017, when their Marine Corps KC-130T "Yanky 72" crashed near Itta Bena, MS.

We have a responsibility to ensure we preserve the memory of those who gave that last full measure of devotion for our Nation. Those we lost last July include: Cpl Daniel Baldassare, SSgt Robert Cox, Capt. Sean Elliott, Maj. Caine Goyette, GySgt Sergeant Mark Hopkins, GySgt Brendan Johnson, Sgt Julian Kevianne, SSgt William Kundrat, Sgt Chad Jenson, Sgt Talon Leach, Sgt Owen Lennon, Sgt Joseph Murray, Cpl Collin Schaaff, Sgt Dietrich Schmieman, SSgt Joshua Snowden, and PO 2 Class Ryan Lohrey.

Immediately after the accident and since then, first responders and the citizens of Mississippi rallied in support of the fallen. The unveiling of a permanent monument will culminate a significant effort in Mississippi and across the Nation to memorialize these brave young men.

I am proud of the people of my State for their commitment to remember the fallen and to support their families. A recent Greenwood Commonwealth editorial thoughtfully expresses the significance of this work.

I ask unanimous consent that the July 11, 2018, Greenwood Commonwealth editorial titled "Open arms for families of the fallen" be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Greenwood Commonwealth, July 11, 2018]

OPEN ARMS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN

This weekend promises to be a highly emotional one for the families of the 16 servicemen who lost their lives a year ago when the transport plane on which they were flying fell out of the sky for reasons still not publicly disclosed.

It also could be a very meaningful weekend for the greater Greenwood community,

which has become associated with these 16 by a tragically sad quirk of fate.

When the KC-130T with the call name of Yanky 72 was flying over the Mississippi Delta on July 10, 2017, no one on board or on the ground below could have imagined that its final destination would be a remote soybean field on the western edge of Leflore County rather than an airstrip in California.

It was a horrific accident, claiming the lives of everyone on board—15 Marines and one Navy corpsman.

Some 200 family members of those who died, plus a large number of the fallen servicemen's comrades, are expected to start arriving Thursday in Leflore County. For the next 72 hours or so, they will be our guests while they remember, grieve and perhaps connect with some of the good people of this community who, though they didn't personally know the 16, responded as if they did.

Today, the Commonwealth publishes a special section that not only explains what's planned to memorialize the 16, but also gives some insight into who the 16 were, and tells how some of their families have coped with their loss since that fateful afternoon.

Certainly, service in the military comes with risks. Everyone who signs up for it knows it, as do all of their friends and relatives. But death is not an ordinary outcome when you're just flying from one base to another. It would be hard to get one's mind around losing a loved one in a warzone, but losing one so unexpectedly as this has to be all that much tougher.

A large group of state and local volunteers has organized the Yanky 72 Memorial Weekend in a way that it hopes will give some emotional aid to those who are grieving, while also reassuring them that their sons, brothers, husbands and boyfriends have not been forgotten, nor will they be.

The families will be given the space to grieve in private, to visit the crash scene, to share their experiences with others who had relatives on that plane, to do whatever it is that would give them some consolation. Some may want to be left alone; some may want to connect.

We know this community will respect their wishes and do whatever it takes to make their weekend one in which they feel surrounded by sympathy and love.

Saturday's public events, including the unveiling of a permanent memorial in Itta Bena, will provide a way to acknowledge appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice paid for by these 16. It would be wonderful if a large number of citizens from this community turned out.

For some of the fallen servicemen's families who come, this may be their first and only trip into the Delta. Others may make it a place of personal pilgrimage.

Whichever occurs, let's hope that we become the locus not of painful memories but of comforting ones.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ELSIE STEWARD YOUNG

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Miss Elsie Steward Young of Highland County, OH, on her 102nd birthday and her recent induction into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Miss Elsie is a legend in southwest Ohio and a lifelong fighter for justice and opportunity for all Ohio children.

In 1954, after the Supreme Court issued its landmark *Brown v. Board of*

Education decision and ordered an end to segregation in America's schools, the two all-White primary schools in Hillsboro, OH, refused to integrate. The district continued to send Black students to the one all-Black school, which was in shambles.

Miss Elsie and a group of mothers took matters into their own hands. For 2-years, the "Marching Mothers of Hillsboro" walked to the town's all-White primary schools every single day, just to be sent home, but they continued to march and to show that they would not rest until their children were given the quality education they were guaranteed under the law. They joined with the NAACP to file a lawsuit against the Hillsboro Board of Education, which made it all the way to the Supreme Court—and they won.

Because of Miss Elsie and her fellow mothers' advocacy, the Court ordered the schools to integrate, and paved the way for integration in other Northern cities. Their activism is a reminder of what ordinary citizens can achieve when they band together to fight for justice.

I am sure that my Senate colleagues join me in Honoring Miss Elsie Steward Young for her service to justice and equality.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL EDWARD CHAMBERLAYNE

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the service and achievements of COL Edward P. Chamberlayne upon his retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Colonel Chamberlayne has been a valued member of the Army Corps for the past 25 years. He has served with distinction from Germany to Afghanistan to Iraq, where he participated in crucial route clearance operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Colonel Chamberlayne's accomplishments have earned him the Bronze Star Medal among numerous other decorations, but his most crucial mission, from my perspective, has been his service as the 67th commander of the Baltimore District.

The commander of the Baltimore District leads more than 1,200 employees in the protection and restoration of Maryland's military installations, waterways, infrastructure, and environment. Under Colonel Chamberlayne's leadership, the Baltimore District has maintained 290 miles of Federal channels and 148 miles of Federal flood protection levees; managed 15 reservoirs and the Washington Aqueduct, which supplies an average of 150 million gallons of drinking water daily; constructed 500 acres of oyster reefs in Maryland; restored 1,140 acres of environmentally fragile remote island habitat; completed aerostat pads for a missile defense system; coordinated tens of millions of dollars in dredging and restoration projects throughout the State of Maryland and streamlined the aquaculture permitting process.

Colonel Chamberlayne's vision and skills in navigating the budget forces within his own agency have brought many local projects to fruition. From dredging, construction, beach replenishment, habitat restoration, and permitting, Colonel Chamberlayne and his team have significantly improved the infrastructure, environment, business climate, regional partnerships, and economic development opportunities throughout the State of Maryland.

The State of Maryland has benefitted tremendously from Colonel Chamberlayne's service. Therefore, it is my honor to recognize the contributions of COL Edward P. Chamberlayne in his role as commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, and to thank him for his years of dedicated service to our country and his tremendously positive impact on the State of Maryland.●

TRIBUTE TO BETSEY HEDRICK

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Betsey Hedrick of Dawson County for her contribution to the community through Betsey's Badlands Catering.

Betsey was born and raised in Bozeman. After graduating from high school, she attended culinary school in Portland, which led her to work at a local country club and eventually run a steakhouse back in Bozeman. She and her husband, Phil, moved to Glendive 14 years ago, had their son Sam, and shortly after, she opened Betsey's Badlands Catering.

Fixing food has always been Betsey's passion. Her favorite part about cooking is not what she is cooking or who she is cooking for; it is the impact that food has on people. No matter people's backgrounds or history, food brings them together. She loves being a part of something that brings joy to people's lives, and that is why she continues to do it daily.

I congratulate Betsey on her significant contributions to Glendive and the greater Dawson County. I look forward to seeing her business grow and trying some of her famous seasonal dishes soon.●

TRIBUTE TO KALLIE CAREY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kallie Carey, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Kallie is a graduate of Wolsey-Wessington High School in Wolsey, SD. Currently, she is attending Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD, where she is majoring in political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kallie for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●