



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

No. 157

## Senate

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.

Eternal God, You are holy. We rejoice because we are sustained by Your strength. We receive honor because of the victories You bring to our lives.

Bless our lawmakers. Keep them from stumbling or slipping as You increase their faith in You. Lord, use them to fulfill Your purposes on Earth, bringing release to captives, sight to the morally blind, and freedom for the oppressed and downtrodden. May they make our Nation and world better for the glory of Your Name.

Lord, we praise You for Your glorious power. We celebrate Your mighty acts.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The majority leader is recognized.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

### NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me start with a quote: "I am going to fight this nomination with everything I've got." Well, that was the Democratic leader on television mere hours after Judge Brett Kavanaugh was first nominated to the Supreme Court. Others pledged their opposition before he was even named, before they reviewed a lick of evidence, before they heard a minute of testimony. Democrats had already made up their minds and chosen their tactics: delay, obstruct, and resist. Whatever it took, whatever the truth really was, they were going to do whatever they could to stop this qualified, experienced, and mainstream nominee.

Democrats have signaled for months that they would put on whatever performance the far left special interests demanded and throw all the mud they could manufacture. Well, it is not like they didn't warn us. But even by the far left's standards, this shameful smear campaign has hit a new low. I will get into the specifics in just a moment, but I want to be perfectly clear about what has taken place. Senate Democrats and their allies are trying to destroy a man's personal and professional life on the basis of decades-old allegations that are unsubstantiated and uncorroborated. That is where we are. This is what the so-called "resistance" has become—a smear campaign, pure and simple, aided and abetted by Members of the Senate.

Eight weeks ago, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee received a letter from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford with an uncorroborated allegation of misconduct. She had requested that the matter be handled discreetly and confidentially.

The responsible next step would have been alerting the full committee so a confidential, bipartisan investigation could begin. Committee staff would have followed their standard practice

for investigating background information. Senators could have questioned Judge Kavanaugh in their meetings or in closed session, while respecting Dr. Ford's request for confidentiality. But Democrats didn't do any of that. They sat on Dr. Ford's letter for 7 weeks. Kept it secret. They did nothing. They bid their time. Then they threw Professor Ford's wishes overboard and leaked it to the press. Our colleague from Delaware has himself indicated that either the ranking member's office or the Democratic committee staff likely leaked the document. As I have noted, we know the chain of custody of the letter went through the Democratic side of the Judiciary Committee.

Does this sound like Democratic Senators take their responsibility seriously and want to get to the truth, or does it sound like a choreographed smear campaign that ignored Dr. Ford's request for confidentiality in order to inflict maximum damage at the last minute on Judge Kavanaugh and his family?

This is an allegation of misconduct which all four supposed witnesses either flatly contradict or are unable to back up. In addition to Judge Kavanaugh, the other three supposed witnesses have said they have "no knowledge," "no recollection," and "no memory" of the alleged incident. It is not just one alleged witness who disagrees with the allegations; it is literally every person who was supposedly there. One of those supposed witnesses says she does not even know Judge Kavanaugh. So all the witnesses who Dr. Ford says were present at the party have told the committee—on the record and under penalty of felony—all confirm that they do not remember any such party, do not know Judge Kavanaugh, or have never seen him do anything remotely like what has been alleged.

This unsubstantiated allegation stands entirely at odds with everything we have heard about Judge

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



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Kavanaugh's character from those who have worked with him and socialized with him, dating all the way back to high school. But Democrats wouldn't let a few inconvenient things—like a complete lack of evidence or an accuser's request for confidentiality—get between them and a good smear. It is despicable.

The contrast with the completely professional conduct of Chairman GRASSLEY could not be starker. As soon as Chairman GRASSLEY learned about this allegation, he handled it through proper channels. He immediately began gathering the facts. His office promptly conducted a transcribed interview of Judge Kavanaugh, in which, under penalty of felony, he unequivocally denied the last-minute allegation. The office received statements from all the other supposed witnesses, who either directly contradicted the story or denied knowing anything about it.

What is more, Chairman GRASSLEY ensured that Dr. Ford could be heard in a forum of her own choosing—either here or in California; either in public or in private; either with the staff or with the Members. He has gone above and beyond to accommodate her request. Thanks to him, we have a fair and open hearing scheduled for Thursday. Dr. Ford will be able to state her allegation under oath, and Judge Kavanaugh will be able to respond.

But the smear campaign didn't stop there; that was just act one. According to the reporter of this second allegation, the accuser "came forward because Senate Democrats began looking." And now they are calling for even further delays and further obstruction over a second decades-old allegation that is so thin and so unsupported that the New York Times refused to even run a story about it. This claim is so dubious that the New York Times passed on the story entirely after having looked into it.

Here is why the New York Times declined to publish: It "interviewed several dozen people over the past week in an attempt to corroborate her story and could find no one with firsthand knowledge"—not one person "with firsthand knowledge" to support the allegation—but, rather, multiple, on-the-record denials again. The Times also reported that the claimant said she herself is uncertain of her claim. That is the New York Times, whose credo is "all the news that's fit to print," and it found this latest last-minute allegation not even fit to print.

Oh, but that hasn't stopped Judiciary Committee Democrats from shoveling it into their smear campaign and demanding further delays. They kept this one a secret from Republicans, too, by the way. Evidently, several Democratic offices knew of this allegation for at least a week, but as with Dr. Ford's claim, they sat on this one, too, so the committee could not take any proper action. They just wanted it to wind up in the press—another orchestrated,

last-minute hit on the nominee. Now they are acting like it is a legitimate reason to delay things even further, as though they have not already announced themselves as being completely opposed to this nomination anyway, as if they have not already promised the far left they would lead the fight to bring this nomination down whatever it took, whatever the cost.

Let's put aside this last-minute, unsubstantiated smear. Let's return to the facts. Let's have a fair hearing on Thursday.

Here are the facts that we do have: Hundreds of men and women who have known Brett Kavanaugh across his life have written or spoken out that he is a man of strong character and tremendous integrity. Numerous witnesses have testified before the Judiciary Committee that he is a trusted mentor, a loyal friend, and a lifelong champion of women. More than 75 women gathered last week to share their decades-old knowledge of Judge Kavanaugh as a "responsible guy who treated us with kindness and respect" and as a "true gentleman in all aspects of his life."

Separately, of course, it remains beyond reasonable dispute that Judge Kavanaugh's legal brilliance and excellence on the bench make him one of the very most qualified Supreme Court nominees in the history of our country.

All of these facts are, quite clearly, on one side. Maybe that is why the Democrats are so panicked. Maybe that is why they are so willing to try to bring down this nominee. In the meantime, a good and honorable man and his family are receiving death threats. They are the subject of smears and are facing Senate Democrats who say he has no presumption of innocence because they don't agree with his judicial philosophy.

Well, before the week is out, both Judge Kavanaugh and Dr. Ford will testify under oath before the Judiciary Committee. Chairman GRASSLEY has made sure the facts will be heard, and Judge Kavanaugh and the American people deserve nothing less. I want to make it perfectly clear that Judge Kavanaugh will be voted on here, up or down, on the Senate floor. This fine nominee to the Supreme Court will receive a vote in this Senate in the near future.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, last week, our efforts to restore regular appropriations hit another milestone. The President signed into law our first appropriations package. It will fund critical efforts in energy research and security, waterways and infrastructure projects, and in improving care at the VA.

Earlier this month, the Senate passed the conference report that will fund the Departments of Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services,

and Education. We anticipate that the House will take up the package this week, and work continues on other important legislation.

Soon, we will act to provide long-term stability and reforms to the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration, and the National Transportation Safety Board. We will also take up America's Water Infrastructure Act, which will bolster the efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers and make commitments to improving water quality and advancing hydropower.

Most immediately, we will continue to process the President's well-qualified nominees. We are, today, considering Jackie Wolcott to serve as U.S. Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency and as U.S. Representative to the United Nations in Vienna. I urge all of our colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN SULLIVAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, over the Senate's history, we have welcomed into our ranks many brave men and women who have served in uniform. From the earliest days of our Republic, when veterans of the Revolution laid down their arms to serve as legislators, the Senate has been the home of patriots who know the true meaning of service and sacrifice. Some of our colleagues have even decided to pull double duty—continuing to serve in the Reserves while suffering the slings and arrows here in the Senate.

We have, today, a unique opportunity to honor one of these colleagues. Earlier this month, the news came that our friend, the junior Senator from Alaska, had attained the rank of colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve. DAN SULLIVAN has spent the last quarter century as a marine, earning the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and serving on Active Duty in Afghanistan. Those of us who serve here with Senator SULLIVAN are hardly surprised that someone so "squared away" has risen to this milestone.

His promotion is recognized in a special ceremony today here in the Capitol, where, I understand, Senator SULLIVAN's father will pin on his new rank.

I know this body will join me in congratulating him and in thanking both Senator SULLIVAN and Colonel SULLIVAN for all of his service to the Nation.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Utah.

#### NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader's remarks in a wide variety of ways. What a great leader he is. We all should pay very strict attention to the way he handles himself and his seriousness about our U.S. Senate.

Last night, Senate Democrats continued their smear campaign against Judge Brett Kavanaugh with a thinly sourced article that accuses Judge Kavanaugh of conduct that no eyewitness can even corroborate. Rather than having brought the matter to the attention of committee investigators, Democrats coordinated with the members of the media to drop the story in the most dramatic and damaging way possible. This continues the Senate Democrats' pattern of playing hide the ball—after having spent 6 weeks sitting on a letter regarding alleged conduct while Judge Kavanaugh was in high school—before leaking it to the press.

Senate Democrats will stop at nothing to prevent Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation. As reported by the author of last night's article, the individual in the piece came forward only because Senate Democrats "came looking." Even then, the individual went on the record only after "six days of carefully assessing her memories and consulting with her attorney"—a former Democratic elected official. The New York Times, which declined to publish the allegations when approached, reported that it had interviewed "several dozen people . . . in an attempt to corroborate the story" and could find "no one with firsthand knowledge." The Times further reported that the individual in the story had herself contacted former classmates in an effort to corroborate the story and had "told some of them that she could not be certain Mr. Kavanaugh was the one who exposed himself."

Unsurprisingly, Senate Democrats are now using last night's article as an excuse to call for further delays. This follows the same approach they have taken since Judge Kavanaugh's nomination had first been announced. No innuendo has been too low, no insinuation too dirty. Everything is an excuse for delay no matter how unsubstantiated. It does not matter that no other eyewitness can even confirm that Judge Kavanaugh was at the party in question. It does not matter that every other individual alleged to be present denies any memory of the event. The goal is to delay—nothing new to most of us. It should be clear now to all Americans that Democrats are engaged in a coordinated effort to stop Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation by any means possible.

As I have said before, every accuser deserves to be heard. Moreover, a person who has committed sexual assault should not serve on the U.S. Supreme

Court. Yet the way my Democratic colleagues have approached these allegations makes clear that the driving objective here is not the truth but is politics. Rather than having worked with Republican colleagues to investigate Dr. Ford's allegations, they sat on them for 6 weeks until the eve of Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation vote and then leaked them to the press. Rather than having brought last night's allegations to the attention of committee investigators, they back-channeled them to the media and then denied any involvement. Such underhanded tactics are not fair to Judge Kavanaugh, are not fair to the individuals in the stories, and are not fair to the American people.

Senate Democrats are demeaning both the Senate and the Supreme Court through their partisan games and transparent attempts at character assassination. As planned, we will hear and should hear from Dr. Ford on Thursday. Then we should vote, and there should be no frivolous approaches toward the U.S. Senate or toward this confirmation process.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I begin my remarks today by offering my heartfelt sympathy to those in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia who were battered by Hurricane Florence over the past several weeks and who are still feeling the aftermath of that storm. Unfortunately, people in Louisiana know more than a little bit about the damage to life and property that these natural disasters can do.

The road to recovery may be long, but we have your back. That is the message that I want to give to our fellow Americans who were in the path of Hurricane Florence. Don't give up. You are going to want to. Don't. Failure is not falling down. Failure is not getting back up.

Today, I wish to talk a little bit about the National Flood Insurance Program. Weathering a hurricane is difficult enough without the added burden of having to do it without insurance. Our National Flood Insurance Program isn't doing its job if it is so expensive that people can't afford to buy it.

Unfortunately, that is precisely the case for many of our people in North and South Carolina. In spite of a robust economy—4 million new jobs in 20 months and 4.1 percent in gross domes-

tic product growth—and in spite of a booming population in our country, fewer people in the Carolinas can afford to insure their property today than in the year 2013. We should be ashamed of that.

Experts estimate that fewer than 10 percent of the households affected by Hurricane Florence have flood insurance at all. So 90 percent do not. Making matters worse, in North Carolina today there are 3.6 percent fewer NFIP policies in place than there were in 2013. Over that same period of time, North Carolina's population has increased by 620,000 people.

South Carolina tells a similar story. Today, there are 1.2 percent fewer policies than in 2013, despite South Carolina having 350,000 more people. This is the exact same story—the exact same story—that we saw in Texas last year, where 80 percent of homeowners in the eight hardest hit counties had absolutely no flood insurance. That is four out of every five people.

Why don't people have flood insurance? There are a variety of reasons, but because the costs are out of control and middle-class families have little choice but to just roll the dice is the main reason. Why is that? Because Congress keeps playing games, and people don't have faith that the NFIP will be around to pay off. It is also because some people want to get a sound bite more than they want to help ordinary Americans protect one of their most valuable possessions—and, in most cases, their most valuable possession—their home. If those people want to reform the program because they want to save the government money, which is a laudable goal—and some do—they are going about it the wrong way.

The reality is that the National Flood Insurance Program is the only place—the only place—where people can turn to insure their home and their belongings.

Now, 98.5 percent of all NFIP policies are in counties or parishes with a median household income below \$100,000. So this argument we often hear that the National Flood Insurance Program is just a subsidy for wealthy people and their beach homes is nonsense. It is nonsense on a stick. And 62 percent of all of the people enrolled in the NFIP program are in counties or parishes with a median household income below the national average of \$53,889. Last year, many folks saw the premiums for their homes and businesses increase between 8 and 25 percent.

Floods are the most common and, unfortunately, the most costly natural disaster. If your home takes on water, your homeowner's insurance is not going to help you. Let me say that again. If your home floods and you have homeowner's insurance, you will not be covered. Homeowner's insurance does not cover the cost of a flood. If you don't have insurance, FEMA's disaster dollars aren't going to foot the bill for a full recovery. They aren't.

Even if you are eligible for Federal disaster assistance—for example, a

loan or a grant—it will be years before you will see those funds. What are flood victims supposed to do in the meantime? They can't just simply sit on an empty lot and wait. Life goes on.

Hurricane Florence is just one in a long line of storms that have devastated Americans families. I am not just talking about massive hurricanes such as Katrina, Rita, and Sandy. Unnamed floods in the spring and summer of 2016 ravaged 56 of the 64 parishes or counties in my State. In parts of my State in 2016, we had folks who endured 20 inches of rain in 2 days. I don't care if you live on Pikes Peak. If you get 20 inches of rain in 2 days, you are going to flood, even if you are not near a body of water. That is just a fact.

In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria last year, I thought my colleagues might have seen the light and might have come to the table to discuss a long-term sustainable and reasonable bill to reform the NFIP, but, unfortunately, that couldn't be further from reality.

Congress has not only refused to debate comprehensive National Flood Insurance Program reform, but the program nearly lapsed. Congress has had well over a year to lay out a plan. Yet it still refuses to do so because one or two Members want to hold up progress. Unfortunately, it is ordinary people like the good people of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas who are feeling the pain of those politics.

Recovering from a natural disaster is more than just putting up drywall. It is about communities coming back safer, stronger, and better prepared. The NFIP is an indispensable part of that effort to rebuild, but a flood insurance program isn't useful if it is too complicated to understand or if it allows bad actors to take from hard-working families.

We need rules for the flood insurance program that make sense. We need government websites that a normal person can navigate. We need quicker decisions by bureaucrats, and a faster process to get disaster dollars to the people who need them. Most importantly, though, people need to be able to afford the flood insurance.

I understand the National Flood Insurance Program is running a deficit. As you can see, we have had an extraordinary number of storms, and I understand that it needs to be put back into sound, fiscal shape. But raising the price of the product so high so that people can't afford the insurance is not going to achieve that. It is going to undermine the entire purpose of the flood insurance program.

I suggest that what we have to do is to strike a balance between fiscal stability and longevity of the program and affordability for the people who are supposed to be served by it. We have no choice but to get the program fiscally stable, but also we have no choice but to get premiums under control, and reform is the only path forward. The status quo is not working.

When Congress established the NFIP, we made a promise. We promised 5 million Americans—that is how many policyholders we have—including half a million people in my State and 350,000 people in North and South Carolina, that we would be there to help should disaster strike, and it is high time that the Congress show people that we meant it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NATIONAL RICE MONTH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, September is National Rice Month. In Arkansas, this is certainly reason to celebrate. My home State has the proud distinction of being the Nation's leader in rice production, producing about half of the U.S. rice crop in America. Arkansas rice producers not only provide a safe, reliable food source that helps feed the world but also helps drive the State's economy.

Arkansas rice farmers support nearly 15,000 jobs and, on average, contribute \$2.3 billion to the State's economic output. Rice milling operations and forward market linkages in Arkansas account for more than \$3 billion in total output of goods and services.

These are impressive numbers for an integral component to Arkansas' economy and part of the reason why the industry was recognized by Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who signed the Rice Month proclamation in early September. As a leader in production, Arkansas rice farmers have a unique role in the industry and in the ongoing research to support its continued success in the State.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is a leading research entity on rice production. Its Rice Research and Extension Center is recognized worldwide for developing solutions to the challenges facing producers, establishing techniques and best practices that help advance the rice industry.

The strong partnership between education and industry is crucial to leveraging the investment made in rice research. This cooperation helps improve the rice crop and increase farmers' yields, as well as makes rice production more efficient.

This collaboration is also seen in conservation efforts. Rice farmers are leaders in sustainability. Over the last two decades, rice producers have been able to increase their yields by more than 50 percent, with improved quality, while reducing land use by 35 percent, energy use by 38 percent, and water use by 53 percent.

In addition to being good stewards of the environment, rice farmers provide

critical habitat for ducks and other waterfowl. Organizations like Ducks Unlimited have formed a relationship with rice farmers through the Rice Stewardship to improve conservation practices that help shape the habitat for waterfowl. Flooded rice fields have become great locations for hunters. When these outdoorsmen visit Arkansas to take advantage of our natural resources, they pump money into our local economies.

As a duck hunting destination, it is critically important that we protect waterfowl habitats in Arkansas so we can continue to attract sports men and women to our State.

Congress can help our rice farmers continue these good practices by passing a farm bill that includes our robust conservation title.

During my annual ag tour in Arkansas last month, I visited with rice farmers, researchers, and rice industry leaders. They shared with me how the farm bill can work better for them. We can improve crop insurance to make the policy work better for our rice farmers. They need a strong farm safety net, and they asked that Washington protect the markets they have and work to open new markets like trade with Cuba.

I am proud to craft and promote policies that help our rice farmers, and I will continue to be an advocate for the industry. This month is the perfect time to celebrate the rice industry and the many positive contributions it makes to Arkansas.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in the confirmation of any Supreme Court nominee, it is the Senate's job to carefully and thoroughly review the nominee's credentials, beliefs, background, and suitability for the position. Once confirmed, a Supreme Court Justice is not subject to review or to term limits. It is a lifetime appointment with immense responsibilities and powers. We have to examine any Supreme Court nominee in light of those facts.

Dr. Christina Blasey Ford has come forward with a credible allegation that Judge Kavanaugh is guilty of sexual misconduct. I believe her, but regardless of what you believe, she deserves to be heard in a deliberate and impartial manner, in a way that is dignified

and respectful to both sides and to her, with as much independently verified information gathered beforehand as possible. And now, of course, there are additional allegations about Judge Kavanaugh's actions that should be examined.

There is one simple way to get to the bottom of this without the he said, she said, without the finger-pointing and name-calling: a quiet, serious, thorough background check by the FBI. That is the logical way to go. The FBI is not biased. The FBI is professional. It is a crime to lie to them, so people have a large incentive to tell the truth.

Reopening an FBI investigation is a routine practice for judicial nominations. It has happened over and over again when new information has come up, and it only takes a short time to complete. It should be quiet, serious, and get the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

If my Republican friends are so concerned about this process being chaotic, they should want the FBI to handle these allegations because the FBI can conduct this investigation soberly, effectively, and discreetly. In fact, there is really only one way to get to the bottom of these allegations and prevent the Nation from being thrown into further turmoil—an independent background check by the FBI. On the one hand, our Republican colleagues decry the turmoil, but on the other hand, they avoid the careful, best, serious way to get at the allegations—a background check investigation by the FBI.

For some reason, both the White House and Senate Republicans are blocking an FBI investigation and questioning its purpose. Let me ask our Republican friends, President Trump, and America this question: If President Trump and Senate Republicans are so certain the allegations against Judge Kavanaugh aren't true, why aren't they welcoming the FBI to look into it?

Leader MCCONNELL, you spent 5 minutes pointing your finger at Democrats. That shows someone who is in a pickle. That shows someone who has dug a deep hole. If you really believe these allegations are part of a despicable smear job, Leader MCCONNELL, why don't you call for an FBI investigation? What are you afraid of? What are you hiding?

What is Judge Kavanaugh hiding? Nobody knows. But people who want the truth will find a truth teller. People who don't want the truth will run away from a truth teller and instead point fingers of accusation and wild, untethered allegations. That is what Leader MCCONNELL is doing. It is not a great moment. I know he prizes his role in ramming through these right-wing Justices. That is part of his legacy. I don't think America will see it that way a few years from now when we see their rulings. There will be a huge backlash if Kavanaugh should get on the Court and they should rule the

way they have ruled in the past. But that is not the search for truth; that is the search for a rush job to avoid the truth. It should not happen.

Think about it. The White House is blocking an impartial investigation of Dr. Ford's allegation. Chairman GRASSLEY is setting arbitrary deadlines for Dr. Ford to testify, dictating the terms of her appearance, and denying her and the minority the right to call other witnesses, which always happens at hearings, including an alleged eyewitness. There was someone in the room. By press reports, he is backing up Kavanaugh. Why are they afraid to have him testify? Or at least he is saying he doesn't remember.

We are hearing that Chairman GRASSLEY now wants to bring in outside counsel to conduct the questioning, as if Dr. Ford were on trial, as if Republicans were afraid to question Dr. Ford. This is so unusual, but it shows a fear on the part of our Republican friends that something bad and truthful will come out.

If Chairman GRASSLEY and Leader MCCONNELL continue down this road, we are heading for a hearing that will be far from what a serious factfinding inquiry should look like, far from respectful to Dr. Ford, and far from fair.

Given the circumstances, the American people should ask—particularly those who support Judge Kavanaugh—who is more credible: Dr. Ford, who wants the FBI to investigate her allegation because she is confident it will corroborate her account, or our Republican friends who are running away from any objective factfinding and truth?

Remember, it is Dr. Ford who not only wants the FBI to look into this, she took a voluntary lie detector test, and she knew she was inviting harassment and ridicule and abuse for coming forward. She has gotten death threats. She has had to move out of her house. She feared her life would be upended, and it is. She still had the courage to do this. We certainly owe her some dignity and a fair hearing, not the kind of rushed, almost kangaroo court-style hearing where the Members on the Republican side are afraid to even ask her questions and confront her while they will say things behind her back.

Who is more credible? Is it Dr. Ford, who is willing to submit to all this, or Republicans in the White House, who are stonewalling an FBI investigation into facts and who are refusing to call other witnesses to Dr. Ford's hearing, including the alleged eyewitness? Republicans or Democrats? There is an easy, easy answer to all of these. So when Leader MCCONNELL rails and rants about Democrats, he is setting up a straw man. He is afraid of what might come out, what the truth is, it seems to me.

We have heard Judge Kavanaugh's defenders say: This happened 36 years ago; it shouldn't matter. We have heard new, tortured formulations of that shopworn excuse that boys will be

boys. I don't agree with any of those voices, any of those excuses, but let me address those who think that, people who think: This was a long time ago. Boys did this. Let's not hold someone accountable for it 30 years later, or at least let's not stop his advancement in his career.

One obvious answer is, it is the Supreme Court. But I would ask those who believe that Kavanaugh is not being treated fairly to examine one more point: his credibility. Whether you think what happened 36 years ago is enough to remove him from consideration of the Supreme Court, as I do, or whether you don't, credibility of a Supreme Court nominee is extremely important.

Judge Kavanaugh has unequivocally denied this. He didn't say, like Mr. Judge, "I can't remember. Maybe I had too many to drink, and my recollection isn't great"; he unequivocally denied it. And this comes on top of the fact that Judge Kavanaugh's testimony had real issues with credibility. Is Judge Kavanaugh again denying the truth because his confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court hangs in the balance? The credibility of Judge Kavanaugh, given his previous testimony, given how he skirted the truth, at the very minimum, on issues such as appointment of certain judges, on torture, on Manny Miranda—and now he says this, an unequivocal denial?

Let's assume that after the testimony of Dr. Ford, most Americans believe it to be true. How would we want to appoint Judge Kavanaugh—because he would have abjectly lied—if they believe it is true?

So there is the issue of credibility. Beyond the weight that different people give what happened 30-some-odd years ago, beyond the weight of whether people excuse or don't excuse the behavior—I don't excuse it—is the issue that looms: credibility. Is Judge Kavanaugh the kind of upright, straightforward individual we want on the Bench? Do his flirtations with avoiding the truth in his testimony—is this just another, even worse indication that he does not have the judgment, the moral character, the credibility for a job that requires all three?

In summation, in the face of multiple allegations against Judge Kavanaugh, the FBI should reopen the background check investigation, and we should conduct a hearing where the appropriate witnesses are called and respect is given to both the accuser and the accused. Anything less will be viewed by the American people and I believe judged by history as a stain on Republicans in the Senate and a stain on the integrity of the majesty of the Supreme Court.

I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). Morning business is closed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Thune  
TillisToomey  
WarnerWicker  
Young

[Rollcall Vote No. 214 Ex.]

YEAS—76

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report:

The bill clerk read the nominations of Jackie Wolcott, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jackie Wolcott, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. All time is yielded back on both sides, and I call for the rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wolcott and Wolcott nominations?

Mr. ISAKSON. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) would have voted "nay."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 213 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Baldwin	Ernst	Menendez
Barrasso	Fischer	Moran
Bennet	Gardner	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Graham	Murphy
Blunt	Grassley	Murray
Boozman	Hassan	Nelson
Brown	Hatch	Perdue
Burr	Heitkamp	Peters
Cantwell	Hirono	Portman
Capito	Hoeven	Risch
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Casey	Inhofe	Rounds
Cassidy	Isakson	Rubio
Collins	Jones	Schumer
Coons	Kaine	Scott
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	King	Shelby
Cotton	Klobuchar	Smith
Crapo	Kyl	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Tester
Daines	Lee	
Donnelly	Manchin	
Duckworth	McCaskill	

NAYS—19

Booker  
Cardin  
Durbin  
Feinstein  
Gillibrand  
Harris  
HeinrichHeller  
Leahy  
Markey  
Reed  
Sanders  
Schatz  
StabenowUdall  
Van Hollen  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Corker  
FlakeJohnson  
MerkleyPaul  
Sasse

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

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

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Peter A. Feldman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2019.

Mitch McConnell, Richard C. Shelby, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cory Gardner, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, David Perdue, John Boozman, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran, Lamar Alexander, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Barrasso, Steve Daines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Peter A. Feldman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2019, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 76, nays 18, as follows:

Alexander  
Baldwin  
Barrasso  
Bennet  
Blunt  
Boozman  
Burr  
Cantwell  
Capito  
Carper  
Casey  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Coons  
Cornyn  
Cortez Masto  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Donnelly  
Duckworth  
Enzi  
Ernst  
Feinstein  
FischerGardner  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hassan  
Hatch  
Heitkamp  
Heller  
Hirono  
Hoeven  
Hyde-Smith  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Jones  
Kaine  
Kennedy  
King  
Klobuchar  
Kyl  
Lankford  
Leahy  
Lee  
Manchin  
Markey  
McCaskill  
McConnell  
MoranMurkowski  
Murphy  
Murray  
Nelson  
Perdue  
Peters  
Portman  
Risch  
Roberts  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Scott  
Shaheen  
Shelby  
Smith  
Sullivan  
Tester  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Wicker  
Young

NAYS—18

Blumenthal  
Booker  
Brown  
Cardin  
Durbin  
GillibrandHarris  
Heinrich  
Menendez  
Reed  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Stabenow  
Udall  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Corker  
FlakeJohnson  
MerkleyPaul  
Sasse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, and the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter A. Feldman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on Executive Calendar No. 938 be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, September 25; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

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

# REMEMBERING LORRAINE H. MORTON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this month, we received the sad news that Mayor Lorraine Morton had passed away just a few months short of her 100th birthday. For decades, she was a force for change in Evanston, IL. For so many people, she was the "Principal of Evanston."

In June of this year, more than a hundred people gathered with Lorraine at the Northwestern University Segal Visitors Center to celebrate the premier of the documentary "Lorraine H. Morton: A Life Worthwhile." The title comes from something her father instilled into her, "Only a life of service is a life worthwhile." Her life of service was extraordinary as a teacher, mentor, friend, and Evanston's first African-American mayor.

Lorraine's story is that of shattering boundaries and bringing Evanston into the 21st century. Lorraine was one of the first Black teachers to break the color barrier in a community that was integrated statistically, but not geographically. She championed desegregation efforts and pioneered equity in Evanston's schools. As one of the few Black educators on the North Shore, her firsts were many: from serving as the first Black educator to teach summer school, to breaking the color line at Nichols Middle School, to leading the Haven Middle School as principal.

Haven was on the frontier of all the changes coming to the community in the 1960s and 1970s. As principal, Lorraine thrived and developed a reputation for kindness and listening.

In the early 1980s, then-Mayor Jay Lytle asked Lorraine if she were interested in joining the city council as the Fifth Ward alderman. After he talked her into it, Lorraine took the job in 1982. Three years later, she ran again and was elected alderman with the support of the families she had taught. Lorraine had a successful 9-year run on the council.

While Fifth Ward alderman, she served on the housing and community development, police services, planning and development, human services, and rules committees, as well as on the unified budget panel. Additionally, she also served on special committees on fair housing, libraries, and gangs, and she was Evanston's legion commissioner.

In 1989, Lorraine stepped away from her role as Haven Middle School principal to focus on politics. Word started to go around that then-Mayor Joan Barr was considering stepping down. Many of Lorraine's former students recommended she run. She had a built-in power base in all the schools she taught and made a difference, but the race was no easy picnic. Lorraine nabbed second place out of five candidates. This set up a runoff election where Lorraine came from behind to win. Lorraine went on to be the longest serving mayor in Evanston's history in 1993.

Lorraine led the city through the development of partnerships with Northwestern University and changing the culture of the city council itself. Downtown Evanston is filled with Northwestern buildings these days. The university has a deep relationship with Evanston and the Chicagoland area, but it was Lorraine that brought Northwestern closer to the community through programs like increased student-to-student tutoring and donating resources like a firetruck.

Downtown Evanston's large-scale renovation and revitalization also is a part of her legacy. Anyone seeing a movie in the Century Theater should thank her. An agreement negotiated by Lorraine and the city council with Northwestern to create a research park eventually led to a mixed-use zone, including that movie theater and all those restaurants and bistros.

In the 16 years she was mayor, she was a role model to future mayors. She was tough on the budget, making every dollar stretch as much as possible. There were many budget battles, but more business came to Evanston, and it grew again. Lorraine did it famously with an open-door policy to all constituents. Her successor continued many of her policies.

At the end of Lorraine's time as mayor, the city dedicated the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center on Ridge Avenue as a thank you for a legendary career. After stepping down from mayor, she continued to serve the community as a representative for the mayor on an economic board. She remained active till the very end as the "Principal of Evanston," having a life of service that was worthwhile.

I always enjoyed working with Lorraine. She was professional, cheerful, and her focus was always on building a better Evanston. I can still see her sitting on the reviewing stand at the end of Evanston's legendary Fourth of July parade, with a big smile and appreciation for all of the people who came to join in celebrating her hometown.

Lorraine is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Morton Brasher, and two granddaughters, Elizabeth Keziah and Constance Moriah Brasher.

# REMEMBERING A. GEORGE PRADEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this month, we mourned the loss of a wonderful public servant in Illinois. Naperville's mayor emeritus, Arthur George Pradel, passed away at the age of 80. He was a soldier, a policeman, a mayor, father, and friend.

To some, George was "Officer Friendly." Local radio called him the Nicest Mayor in the World. I just was honored to be one of his friends—but so was everyone around him. He had a supernatural ability to know everyone and always have time to say hi. George was Naperville's longest serving mayor, with a tenure of 20 years.

When George was a small child, his family packed up from Chicago's Hyde

Park and moved to Naperville in 1939. The town had just 4,500 people at the time. When George finished his tenure as mayor in 2015, Naperville had grown to a population of 142,000.

George graduated from Naperville Community High School in 1955 and served in the Marines as two of his uncles had done during World War II. After 3 years in the Marines, George came home to Naperville.

George's dream job was to be the head of an orphanage, but in the 1950s, the orphanage system had changed. Smaller group or children's homes and foster care had replaced much of it. George was in a bit of a quandary. A friend of his encouraged him to consider police work. When an opportunity at the Naperville Police Department came up in 1966, he applied immediately. It was a beginning of a 29-year career with the Naperville Police Department.

There was just one small problem. George was not even 5'7" in height. Naperville Police Department required officers to be at least 5'11" at the time. After acing his interview with the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, the board had to consider if they could let him into their ranks, even though he was too short. One of the board members asked a marine family member if someone like George could make it. The family member told him that anyone who could get through Marine Corps training could be a great police officer. The board agreed.

George earned the nickname "Officer Friendly" in his almost 30 years on the force by visiting schools and speaking to children. He wanted youth to understand that police were not to be feared, but they were there to protect them and give guidance. George worked to bring Safety Town, a miniature village where children learn pedestrian, bike, and railroad safety, to Naperville in 1977 and was the first police instructor. The "town" village now bears his name and that of his late wife Pat.

George retired as a lieutenant when he was elected mayor, despite no previous political experience in 1995. He originally envisioned retiring from the police force and being a greeter at Walmart, but a bunch of residents asked him to run. He never really mastered the art of diplomatically saying no. George wasn't even planning to win the race, but all those children that knew him as Officer Friendly were adults now, and they voted for him. He was so surprised that he did not even have an acceptance speech prepared for when he won.

As mayor, George continued being Naperville's greatest champion. His schedule was packed with events from collecting food for charity shopping events for Loaves & Fishes Community Services to charity dinners, fundraising walks, anniversaries, and graduations. He even did first flush ceremonies for toilets in a new building. When snow fell, he would hop in a city



plow and help out. Helping people and trying to make Naperville better was his nature.

I used to kid him that he was my favorite Republican. I invited him as my guest to a State of the Union address in Washington awhile back, and he was a joy to be around.

George always had time for people. His door was open to anyone. A Chicago columnist wrote a sarcastic piece about Naperville, and George invited him to tour the town and changed his opinion. His state of the city addresses had a flare to them, as he sported a tuxedo and silk top hat to present them.

George loved Naperville and thought the best of it. When he stepped down from being mayor to spend more time with his wife in 2015, his successor invented the title mayor emeritus so George could still stay involved with the community and represent the mayor on occasion.

In addition to Safety Town, a park, a street, and an Officer Friendly statue all bear George's name in Naperville. He even has a bobblehead in his likeness, which I own, too. Because George loved chicken wings and the lunch buffet, Braconi's Restaurant and Pizzeria has a room named after George. At Schmaltz's Deli, George is the only person to have a sandwich named after him. Why did all these places name things after him? Because they loved him the way he loved Naperville. Naperville will miss him, and so will I.

George is survived by his children Carol, Gary, and George.

#### REMEMBERING KEN SMIKLE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, Chicago lost a giant in media when Ken Smikle passed away at the too young age of 66. For over 40 years, Ken redefined coverage of the Black American experience and brought to light the economic potential of Black communities in the United States.

It is hard to believe that an audience with \$1.2 trillion in buying power in 2017 did not have a publication geared toward understanding the African-American market 30 years ago, but that was the reality before Ken founded Target Media News in 1987. Ken saw the potential there throughout his career.

Hailing from Harlem, NY,—in 1974, Ken, his brother, Dawoud Bey, and friend, Gerald Gladney started a business that published two magazines. They did this with no financial backing besides savings from various jobs.

Ken wrote for several publications, including Essence Magazine and the National Leader Magazine. He went on to serve as the arts editor for Harlem's Amsterdam News, the Black music editor at Record World Magazine, and the editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

In 1983, Ken's life had a revolution. He became the senior editor at Black Enterprise magazine. Ken also met the love of his life, Renee Ferguson, who

was among the first female African-American women to work at CBS Network News in New York. Both of them were dedicated to telling the untold story of African Americans. It was at Black Enterprise that Ken got the idea that no one was tracking what businesses were doing to market to Black consumers.

In 1987, Ken and Renee moved to Chicago. Ken founded Target Market News, while Renee worked as an investigative reporter for NBC5 News. Target Market News became the leading publication showing the research into marketing to African Americans. His work was pivotal in changing the way corporations viewed African Americans as an economic force. He published an annual "Black Buying Power" report for many years. For many years, Ken was the only one doing it, until Forbes and the University of Georgia Selig Center joined the bandwagon.

Ken was the expert quoted on marketing to African Americans in numerous publications. He cofounded the African American Marketing and Media Association, hosted annual conferences, and was a proud member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

In Chicago's Hyde Park's Kenwood community, Ken and Renee were staples for 30 years. They were neighbors to a young couple named Barack and Michelle Obama. Before Barack Obama was President Obama, he was Ken's friend at the Hyde Park co-op.

While trailblazing the marketing industry, Ken was a Little League basketball coach at the YMCA. He was a loving father to his son, Jason, going to his son's baseball, basketball, and swimming competition.

Ken loved his jazz and the music of life. His leadership and vision will be missed.

Ken leaves behind his wife, Renee, son, Jason, brother, Dawoud Bey, and sisters, Sandra Bernard and Georgianna Machicote.

(At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I want the record to reflect my concerns about the nominations of Jackie Wolcott to be the U.S. Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, and the U.S. Representative to the Vienna office of the United Nations. For family health reasons, I was unable to cast a vote in relation to her nomination. However, while Ambassador Wolcott is well-regarded for her recent work at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S. Representative to the IAEA must bring impartiality and a focus on the technical aspects of the job. In the past, Ambassador Wolcott has spoken publicly and forcefully on IAEA compliance issues, and I have concerns that reconciling those past statements with

the current demands of the IAEA will be difficult. For that reason, had I been able to cast a vote, I would have voted against the nominations.●

#### NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am placing a hold on the nomination of Michael Faulkender to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy, which was reported favorably from the Finance Committee on September 18, 2018. I will maintain that hold until the Treasury Department provides the Senate Finance Committee sufficient information and documents related to Russia and its financial dealings with President Trump and his associates, as well as outside organizations Russia used to help elect him. I originally asked for these documents on May 10, 2017, and, to date, have still not received satisfactory responses to these important matters.

I have stated repeatedly that we must follow the money if we are going to get to the bottom of how Russia has attacked our democracy. That means thoroughly reviewing any information that relates to financial connections between Russia and President Trump and his associates, whether direct or laundered through hidden or illicit transactions.

The Treasury Department for which Mr. Faulkender is nominated to serve is responsible for much of this information. The Treasury Department authorities include intelligence and enforcement functions to combat financial crimes and threats, including money laundering.

For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent request concerning the nomination of Mr. Faulkender until these issues are resolved.

#### NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize National POW/MIA Day and honor the servicemembers who have not yet made it home. We can never give up in bringing them home and getting answers for their loved ones who await their return.

I commend those who work during this national recognition each September and throughout the year to raise awareness about the continued need to return our missing servicemembers. This includes members of the POW/MIA Awareness Rally Corp. of Pocatello, ID, who hold rallies and other events to keep a spotlight on the immense service of our Nation's veterans.

Also, thank you to those who are working hard to bring all of our servicemembers home. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which is the organization primarily responsible for coordinating and conducting research and recovery efforts for POW and MIA soldiers, reports that more



than 82,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, the Gulf wars, and other conflicts. This includes 355 remaining POW and MIA veterans from Idaho. So far this month, the agency has reported accounting for 18 missing servicemembers, most of whom were lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor. This work of identifying and returning our servicemembers is no doubt painstaking, but imperative. Until we account for all our missing and bring each of these Americans home, wounds remain unhealed.

I pray that all of the families and friends of missing servicemembers experience the long-awaited return of their loved ones. May all those who serve our Nation feel how grateful we are for their security of the blessings of our liberty. Let's bring them all home.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION OF GREEN RIVER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this weekend we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the day that Green River, WY, became an incorporated municipality.

Green River's history is rich and full of national significance. The founding of Green River predates Wyoming's statehood by 22 years. Green River was founded when the area was still a part of the Dakota Territory in 1868.

Like many other towns across Southern Wyoming, Green River was founded during the race to unite the world's first transcontinental railroad. The railroad had the power to create a town along the route; 2,000 people resided in Green River when it was incorporated in 1868. Today, 2,000 people is still a good-sized town by Wyoming standards.

The railroad also had the power to destroy a town. There were many ghost towns left in Wyoming as the railroad moved on. Green River shrank to just 101 residents when the railroad moved its junction 12 miles west forming Bryan, WY, on the banks of the Blacks Fork River. Green River was on the verge of becoming a ghost town when a drought caused the Blacks Fork to run dry. Dependent on a water source, the railroad moved the junction back to Green River. Bryan became the ghost town while Green River became the Sweetwater County seat.

The junction turned out to be a major stopover point for passenger traffic on the railroad. Movie stars would stop in Green River to change trains on their way from Hollywood to Sun Valley, ID. Even today, every few minutes, a train rumbles through Green River, connecting one side of the United States to the other.

The ideal of Manifest Destiny is one we hold dear as Americans. That ideal and the spirit of exploration is rooted in the history of Green River. Major John Wesley Powell came to Green River in May of 1869 to launch an exploration trip. The goal was to map the

entire Green and Colorado River basin for the first time. This voyage would end up being one of the most significant in American history. Major Powell lost his right arm serving his country as an Army officer during the Civil War. That did not stop him from leading nine men and four boats down the river in 1869 and again in 1871.

Previous to Powell's voyage, the area he would map was regarded as the last area of land in the continental United States that was unexplored. This all started in the town of Green River, which was less than a year old when the major departed on this first trip.

Major John Wesley Powell spoke passionately before he embarked. He spoke directly about the massive voyage he was about to undertake into the unknown. "We have an unknown distance yet to run, an unknown river to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not, what walls ride over the river, we know not. Ah, Well! We may conjecture many things." His words live on today, not only to describe the voyage he was on, but to describe the voyage that the town of Green River was just beginning.

After the railroad helped establish Green River, other industries flourished. Sweetwater County became a major producer of coal and oil. A few years later, a mineral named trona would be discovered just outside Green River. The process and technology to refine trona into soda ash would drastically change the economy of Green River. The Green River Basin is now known as the Trona Capital of the World. It is a fact that the natural resources we have in Wyoming are a blessing.

Like Major John Wesley Powell said, "We have an unknown river to explore and an unknown distance to cover." Over the past 150 years, the city of Green River has covered an impressive amount of distance down that unknown river.

As Green River marks 150 years of incorporation, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating Green River's rich heritage and history that provides a truly wonderful experience to those who call it home.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I strongly supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed the Senate and was signed into law last year. Over the 6 months since its passage, the law's positive impact on our country's economy has become more apparent. Companies, both large and small, have directly experienced the benefits of the law and as a result are distributing bonuses, raising wages, and making new investments in their businesses. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I enthusiastically supported the tax law because I believed it would reduce the tax rate for small

businesses, encourage investment in small businesses, and increase the overall health of our economy. Over the last few months, I have been making this series of speeches to illustrate the benefits this law provides for small businesses.

While much attention has been given in the past 6 months to the ways in which the law is leading to a positive business outlook and is lowering tax rates for individuals and corporations, the benefits that small businesses receive are not always noticed. Today I wish to draw attention to how tax reform is benefitting Li-Lac Chocolates, a small business in Brooklyn, NY. Li-Lac Chocolates makes a variety of chocolate treats the old-fashioned way. Li-Lac was founded by George Demetrious in 1923, with a single location in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood, and today the company has four retail locations across New York City and a 9,000-square-foot plant in Brooklyn. After many years of steady success in Greenwich Village, Anthony Cirone and his partners purchased the company in 2011 with plans to expand the company's sales and make the brand better known. To ensure that the taste and craftsmanship the company was known for was not lost, Cirone enlisted the expertise of master chocolatier Anwar Khoder, who has worked at Li-Lac since the late 1980s and is now a part owner. Though the new owners have made changes to the packaging design and have focused on increasing online sales, Khoder still follows Demetrious's original recipes and even uses manufacturing equipment from the company's earliest days.

Because of last year's tax law, this small chocolate manufacturing business has been able to immediately deduct improvements made to new storefronts. This enables the company to increase its cash flow, hire more workers, and open new locations at a more rapid pace. Before the implementation of the new tax law small businesses had to deal with a complex expensing formula that took many years to make use of and made improvements much less attractive to small business owners. The immediate deduction of property improvements for small businesses is one of the reasons that I supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Overall, the new tax law has been good for small businesses, and it has pushed many small businesses to increase their capital investments, hire additional workers, increase wages, and will lower small businesses' annual tax payments. I am pleased that small businesses like Li-Lac Chocolates will be able to reduce their tax burden by making use of this modified provision and look forward to watching the company's continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHIL NEUENFELDT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO,

on his retirement. Throughout his long and remarkable career, Phil has been a passionate champion of fair wages and safe work environments for hard-working Wisconsinites.

After serving our country in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1971, Phil began his career on the shop floor of a manufacturing company. He joined International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Local 1916 in 1973 and quickly became indispensable in the union's fight for fair contracts and improved working conditions. In his 32 years at the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, Phil's responsibilities grew from legislative director to secretary-treasurer and finally to president in 2010.

Phil Neuenfeldt has long been one of Wisconsin's strongest voices for the middle class and greatest protectors of fundamental freedoms for working people. Phil believes unequivocally in the dignity of work and the responsibility of employers to pay wages that can support a family, and he believes with every fiber of his being that workers deserve a seat at the bargaining table.

Of his many accomplishments, Phil is perhaps best known for the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership and Worker Centered Learning, which are programs he helped initiate that have become national models for job creation and training. He was also instrumental in defending the Family and Medical Leave Act, ensuring workers and families are protected when life circumstances required them to take care of loved ones. Phil is also known for pushing legislation to require public schools to teach the history of the labor movement, ensuring that generations to come would know the celebrated history of organized labor.

Phil deserves to be proud of his outstanding leadership during some of labor's most tumultuous times in State history. Facing unprecedented attacks on worker protections and the right to bargain collectively in 2011, he steered the Wisconsin labor movement through rough waters while the Nation looked on. Thanks to his leadership and perseverance, the Wisconsin labor movement is back on the rise, once again building a stronger middle class and restoring faith in the American dream.

Today, as Phil retires as president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, I know he will never give up the fight that has made him the voice of those who work hard for a living. His engagement, his activism and his efforts to organize for change are a true reflection of Wisconsin's progressive traditions. I will be forever grateful for Phil's passionate and loyal advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin workers and forever honored to call him my friend.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MATTHEW CHRISTIAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Matthew Christian Epis-

copal Church in Milwaukee, WI. St. Matthew Christian Episcopal Church was established on September 15, 1918, and has been a pillar in the community for the last 100 years.

The first service was held by Pastor W.S. Ferguson in his home with the church's membership originally constituting only seven people, including three family members and four Christian followers. As the congregation slowly began to grow, the church sought out a permanent location of worship in Milwaukee, and with the determined efforts of the membership and personal sacrifices of the Pastor's family, an initial payment for a church building on 538 West Walnut Street was made.

St. Matthew's went on to play a significant role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, particularly during the campaign to desegregate Milwaukee Public Schools. A coalition comprised of over a dozen civil rights groups known as the Milwaukee United School Integration Committee, MUSIC, was formed, and then-St. Matthew's Pastor B.S. Gregg was a prominent member of the group. MUSIC conducted a series of demonstrations with the goal of pressuring the Milwaukee school board to put an end to de facto segregation in the city. A series of school boycotts were held, during which Freedom Schools were created to offer an alternative curriculum emphasizing African-American history and activism. St. Matthew's was proud to house one of the Freedom Schools during this time.

The members and leaders of the church are proud of their rich heritage and the expansion of their Christian influence in the community, which are demonstrated by their many active ministries that care for those in need. Rev. Richard D. Shaw has been leading the church since 2010, and under his guidance, St. Matthew's has experienced a renewed and revived spirit. In the last 10 years, Reverend Shaw has worked on various boards and committees throughout Milwaukee, including MICA—Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope—and has developed many ministries within St. Matthew's as well.

St. Matthew Christian Episcopal Church provides a beacon of hope and a place of comfort during times of trial and uncertainty. Under the devoted guidance of its growing membership, may it continue to be a shining asset to the community for the next 100 years.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Green Bay Packers on the team's 100th anniversary. I am honored to pay tribute to this iconic Wisconsin organization.

In August of 1919, Green Bay, WI natives Earl "Curly" Lambeau and George Whitney Calhoun set out on a

mission to find money to buy uniforms for their newly formed football team. They eventually found a willing donor in the Indian Packing Company, with the condition that the team take on the company's name. Thus, the Green Bay Packers were born.

Lambeau laid the foundation of the Green Bay Packers during the team's first 30 years of existence as its founder and coach. He led the organization through some of the most tumultuous as well as some of the most successful times in the franchise's history, winning multiple championships throughout the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. Following his death in 1965, the Green Bay Packers changed the name of their City Stadium to Lambeau Field in his honor. The stadium, more commonly referred to by Wisconsinites as simply Lambeau, has become an historic monument and icon for professional sports fans throughout the world.

In 1959, the Packers hired a new coach and general manager named Vince Lombardi. Lombardi's success is legendary, coaching the Packers to five National Football League championships and victories in the first two Super Bowl games in 1966 and 1967. Considered by many to be the greatest coach in football history, the NFL Super Bowl trophy bears his name. Just as important as his coaching skills were the values he instilled in the organization.

Lombardi had a zero-tolerance policy towards racism, making it known that players and staff would be removed from the team for racist comments. Lombardi made it known that he recruited players for their talent not their race, famously stating he "viewed his players as neither black nor white, but Packer green."

Today, head coach Mike McCarthy has guided the team through one of the most successful stretches in Packer history. He joins Vince Lombardi and Mike Holmgren as coaches who have led the Packers to Super Bowl victories. The team is also fortunate to have immensely talented Aaron Rodgers as quarterback. Rodgers, who was named NFL MVP in 2011 and 2014, has set numerous franchise records, including single season passing yards and touchdowns.

The Green Bay Packers are the last of the small-town teams that were common in the NFL during the league's early days of the 1920s and 1930s. Today, Green Bay is the smallest major league professional sports market in North America by far, but it hasn't hampered the team's success one bit. The Packers have won 13 league championships—nine pre-Super Bowl NFL titles and four Super Bowl victories—the most in NFL history. The Packers are also the only community-owned, nonprofit franchise in American professional sports. The team is owned not by a single individual but by more than 360,000 stockholders.

No tribute to the Packers would be complete without a nod to the team's

hardy and loyal fans. Every Packers game since 1960 has been sold out, and the season ticket waiting list is so long that it is estimated that a fan who puts his or her name on the waitlist today would first be able to purchase tickets in 2966. It is common for season tickets to be passed down to future generations as a precious inheritance. The willingness of Wisconsin “cheeseheads” to endure harsh Wisconsin winters to watch their beloved team is also legendary. The stands were still full on December 31, 1967, with 16 seconds left, when Green Bay future Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr dove into the end zone to beat the warm-weather Dallas Cowboys 21–17 to claim their third consecutive NFL title. The temperature on the field at the end of the now-famous “Ice Bowl” was a frigid 18 degrees below 0.

The trials and successes of the Green Bay Packers are woven into the fabric of Wisconsin culture. Generations of hard-working Wisconsinites have grown up cheering for the “Green and Gold.” I am honored to count myself among the team’s loyal fans who will celebrate their 100th anniversary this year and who look forward to many more hard-fought victories in the years to come. “Go Pack Go!”

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO ADRIENNE ARSHT

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the work of Ms. Adrienne Arsht on the occasion of the 5-year anniversary of the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center at the Atlantic Council. Throughout her career, Ms. Arsht has worked in and called home New York, Miami, and Washington, DC. Today, she tirelessly dedicates herself to promoting artistic, business, and civic growth in these three cities.

In 2013, Ms. Arsht founded the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center at the Atlantic Council to broaden the understanding of regional transformations with a focus on high-impact work that shapes the conversation among policymakers, the business community, and civil society. The center focuses on Latin America’s strategic role in a global context with a priority on pressing political, economic, and social issues that will define the trajectory of the region now and in the years ahead. Its work provides an essential forum for navigating the dramatic economic and political changes defining the 21st century by informing and galvanizing its uniquely influential network of global leaders.

In 2013, the Ambassador of Spain to the United States presented her with the prestigious Spanish diplomatic honor, Order of the Cross of Isabella the Catholic, for her contributions toward Spanish-speaking countries. Earlier this year, Ms. Arsht was awarded the distinguished Order of San Carlos

of Colombia by direction of President Juan Manuel Santos to recognize her deep commitment and support of Colombia.

Ms. Arsht serves as executive vice chair of the Atlantic Council. In 2017, she founded the Adrienne Arsht Center for Resilience to explore the intersection between people and the geopolitical events that affect them. From natural disasters and displacement, to global pandemics and terrorism, the Center for Resilience helps individuals, communities, and societies navigate the global changes that define the 21st century.

Ms. Arsht has also been an ambassador for the arts in the United States. She has contributed to the preservation and sustainability of multiple artistic institutions in the cities she calls home. In Miami, she secured the financial footing of the city’s performing arts center, prompting its board to rename it the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in 2008. Her contributions to the Lincoln Center in New York City were recognized with the dedication of the Adrienne Arsht Stage in Alice Tully Hall in 2012. In Washington, DC, she created the Adrienne Arsht Theater Fund at the Kennedy Center to support a wide variety of musical productions. Ms. Arsht was awarded the Carnegie Hall 2017 Medal of Excellence, recognizing her visionary and outstanding contributions to cultural and nonprofit institutions nationally.

Adrienne Arsht is a philanthropist at heart and an extraordinary business leader who serves our country and advances international understanding.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, for 25 years the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, “the Center,” of Southern Nevada has served as a vital resource for the LGBTQ community and their allies in and around Las Vegas. The Center offers essential services such as comprehensive sex education and college and career readiness, all while fighting to end discrimination against and further the well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community.

In 1993, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada purchased a building and opened its doors, becoming the first safe public space in Las Vegas for LGBTQ people. That year, the Nevada Legislature repealed sodomy laws and the Center hosted its first LGBTQ rights celebration.

Since then, the Center has continued to grow with the city and has hosted many more events, including to celebrate the Supreme Court decision instituting marriage equality nationwide. The Center also celebrated the opening of a new building in 2013 named after Las Vegas philanthropist Robert

Forbuss. The Center has increased its services, outreach, and membership throughout the years and has formed valuable community partnerships with government entities, private companies, and other nonprofits in order to maintain its no-cost community programming.

For two and a half decades, the Center has been unwavering in its commitment to the people of southern Nevada. The Center will continue to be on the leading edge of advocacy for the human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada for its dedication to ensuring all Nevadans are treated equally and for its service to the community over the past 25 years.

##### TRIBUTE TO LAURA LANDERMAN-GARBER

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Laura Landerman-Garber of Hollis, NH, who truly embodies our State’s all-hands-on-deck spirit, as September’s Granite Stater of the Month.

One holiday season years ago, Laura read a story about the importance of remembering servicemembers away from home during the holidays. So during a holiday dinner, she set out cards and told her family and guests that she would start serving turkey dinner after they each wrote a card to a servicemember. This tradition continued and grew last year when a family friend was stationed on an aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt*, inspiring Laura to try to send a card to each member of the crew—or 5,000 cards.

To accomplish this task, Laura mobilized her community. She reached out to churches, synagogues, scout troops, and schools. She also talked to the local media and public officials. Instead of receiving 5,000 cards, Laura received 17,000 cards for members of the Navy in just 6 weeks.

As Laura says, New Hampshire may be small in size, but we are mighty in heart. She has decided to continue her mission to honor our heroes serving in the Armed Forces and says she draws particular inspiration to carry on her tradition after meeting a Vietnam war veteran who described a card he had framed on the wall of his house, written to him by a boy he has never met.

This year, Laura has formed a nonprofit organization to help with the postage and has expanded her goals; she aims to collect 5,000 cards for each branch of our military, 25,000 total. Already, Laura has said the outpouring of support from the entire New Hampshire community has been incredible, reinforcing that, from preschoolers to seniors, the people of New Hampshire exhibit a remarkable generosity of heart and spirit. Laura is confident that, this year, she will once again meet her goal.

For her dedication to our servicemembers and for her work to

bring Granite Starters together, I am proud of to recognize Laura as our September Granite Stater of the Month.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RED ARNDT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Red Arndt for his many years of service to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, as well as his lifetime commitment to bringing safe and reliable water to the rural corners of this country.

Born Lennis Arndt on May 1, 1948, he earned the nickname, "Red," while in grade school from his full head of red hair. The name stuck, and most people only know him today as Red Arndt.

Red grew up in Springfield, MN, about 90 minutes from his current hometown, Luverne, where he first started working in 1989 as their public utilities director. Shortly after beginning his new position, Red heard about a proposal to bring water from the Missouri River in South Dakota to the surrounding States. A major undertaking with more people doubting the idea than supporting, Red saw the opportunity and potential, recommending to the mayor and city council that Luverne join and become one of the first members of the corporation that would later become the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System.

Seeing Lewis & Clark develop from conception to construction was a labor of love for Red and a mission he fought hard to achieve. Red, one of only two original directors from 1990 still on the board, held a shovel when the ground was first broke in 2003. He has probably made over 60 trips to Washington, DC, and many more to the State capitals and attended countless county, city, and community meetings.

Fighting to get Lewis & Clark off the ground was just a starting point for Red. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the project, serving as the vice chairman of the board beginning in 1994, until becoming the board chairman in 2006, a position he still holds. Lewis & Clark has experienced ups and downs during those years; yet under Red's leadership, over 200 miles of pipeline have been laid in the ground currently delivering much needed water to 14 member communities and rural water projects, reaching over 300,000 people across South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. He has seen over \$470 million in funding to Lewis & Clark, including \$57 million in advance funding from the three States.

Red's indisputable dedication was demonstrated when he participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the water treatment plant in August 2012, a mere 2 weeks after having open heart surgery. His fellow directors surprised him at the ceremony by presenting him with the Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award, which is the organization's highest honor.

In May 2016, Luverne was finally able to celebrate their connection to Lewis & Clark, with Red reveling in taking

the first swig of water. It was at this ceremony that the meter building in Luverne was dedicated in Red's honor. Red will be the first to acknowledge that this endeavor, benefiting generations to come in the tristate area, has been a true team effort. But, there is no question Red's vision for the future, dogged dedication, and strong leadership have been a driving force through the years.

When he is not dedicating his time to Lewis & Clark, Red is a proud father of three boys—all sharing his red hair—and grandfather of three red-headed little girls. His family is his pride and joy. You will often find Red wearing a pin honoring his son who served in the U.S. Air Force.

As a dessert first type of guy, Red lives life to the fullest, enjoying travel, fishing and numerous other outdoor activities in his free time, as well as hanging out in his "man cave." I am grateful for his commitment to public service, his hard work on behalf of Lewis & Clark, and, more importantly, I am proud to call him a friend.

I commend Red Arndt for his many great contributions and wish him the best as he continues to make the most out of the life God has given.●

#### TRIBUTE TO STAMATIOS "TOM" KRIMIGIS

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Stamatios "Tom" Krimigis on the occasion of his 80th birthday and 50th anniversary of service to the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory.

Dr. Krimigis is one of our Nation's brightest minds in the field of space science, and I and countless others rely on his knowledge and good counsel. He has had an amazing journey from humble beginnings on the Greek island of Chios to become one of the world's most brilliant and renowned space scientists.

The launch of Sputnik in 1957 drew his eye to the sky and inspired him to study physics and space science, so he came to the United States at the age of 18 to enroll at the University of Minnesota.

Upon finishing college, he went to the University of Iowa to work for James Van Allen, who had been the principal investigator on Explorer 1, which was the U.S. first satellite. In 1968, he joined Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. He was the head of the space department from 1991 to 2004 and has been the emeritus head and principal staff scientist since then.

Dr. Krimigis has led pioneering research into the Earth's environment, its magnetosphere, the Sun, the interplanetary medium, and the magnetospheres of the planets. He was critical in helping NASA shape its approach to planetary exploration and has published more than 600 articles in scientific journals and books. He remains the only scientist to lead investigations of every planet in our solar

system. In 1999, the International Astronomical Union named the asteroid 8323 Krimigis, previously 1979 UH, in his honor.

In addition to being a brilliant scientist in his own right, Dr. Krimigis has mentored countless scientists, engineers, and staff at the Applied Physics Lab, showing extraordinary generosity with his time to develop new generations of leaders. He is always willing to share his insights and provide thoughtful guidance. I am lucky to have Tom as a friend and adviser who has provided insights and infectious enthusiasm for the work being done by he and his colleagues at the Applied Physics Lab. I was thrilled to join Tom to witness some of his major successes, like the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous in 1998 and the Pluto fly-by in 2015.

Dr. Tom Krimigis has a special ability to help people understand the value of investing in our ability to explore our planets and peer into the depths of space, both to maintain America's technological edge and to help answer basic universal questions about our place in the universe. I am honored to recognize him today and to wish him a happy 80th birthday.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 20, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 97. An act to enable civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by private and public institutions, to expand theoretical and practical knowledge of nuclear physics, chemistry, and materials science, and for other purposes.

S. 2946. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of the terms "act of war" and "blocked asset", and for other purposes.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20944), the Minority Leader reappoints Dr. Philip B. Stark of Berkeley, California, to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, September 24, 2018, he has signed the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) of the House:

S. 97. An act to enable civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by private and public institutions, to expand theoretical and practical knowledge of nuclear physics, chemistry, and materials science, and for other purposes.

S. 2946. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of the terms “act of war” and “blocked asset”, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 24, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 97. An act to enable civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by private and public institutions, to expand theoretical and practical knowledge of nuclear physics, chemistry, and materials sciences, and for other purposes.

S. 2946. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of the terms “act of war” and “blocked asset”, and for other purposes.

#### 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. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3480. A bill to modify the boundaries of the Pole Creek Wilderness, the Owyhee River Wilderness, and the North Fork Owyhee Wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3481. A bill to amend the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to disclose certain activities relating to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 3482. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3483. A bill to direct the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Pat-

ent and Trademark Office, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to conduct a study and provide recommendations to promote the participation of women, minorities, and veterans in entrepreneurship activities and the patent system, to extend by 8 years the authority of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to set the amounts for the fees that the Office charges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 3484. A bill to modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3485. A bill to allow States to expand basic health programs to cover more low-income individuals at lower cost; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3486. A bill to provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S.J. Res. 64. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to “Returns by Exempt Organizations and Returns by Certain Non-Exempt Organizations”; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. Res. 643. A resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the brutal and senseless attack at a country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, 1 year ago; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 644. A resolution recognizing the significant contribution of the Country Music Association and designating September 25, 2018, “Country Music Association Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 645. A resolution designating September 2018 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 206

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award job training Federal Pell Grants.

S. 281

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 281, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 915, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude Segal Americorps Education Awards and related awards from income.

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, supra.

S. 2046

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2046, a bill to amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2501, a bill to amend the

Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2568, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 2934

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2934, a bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies.

S. 2945

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2945, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving the voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2971

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2971, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit animal fighting in the United States territories.

S. 3089

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3089, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2018, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3165

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3165, a bill to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, and for other purposes.

S. 3181

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3181, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to establish the Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 3257

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3257, a bill to impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for serious violations of international law regarding the protection of civilians during armed conflict, and for other purposes.

S. 3290

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3290, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

S. 3321

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3321, a bill to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden and to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson in recognition of their contributions to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

S. 3352

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3352, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 3435

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3435, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to issue guidance and recommendations for institutions of higher education on removing criminal and juvenile justice

questions from their application for admissions process.

S. 3436

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3436, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for greater spousal protection under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3459

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for expenditures to provide access to disabled individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 3462

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3462, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide medical assistance for substance use disorder treatment services to individuals between the ages of 21 and 64 with substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 3467

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3467, a bill to permanently reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

S. 3469

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3469, a bill to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of the names for the crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969.

S. RES. 606

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 606, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

S. RES. 610

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 610, a resolution urging the release of information regarding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States.

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 610, *supra*.

S. RES. 632

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from



New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 632, a resolution designating September 2018 as “National Workforce Development Month”.

S. RES. 641

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 641, a resolution marking 1 year since the landfall of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 3482. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about legislation to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. I want to thank my fellow bill sponsors, Senators CASEY and SCHATZ, for their dedication to improving children's health and for working with me to extend this important program once again.

I am honored to have helped create the EMSC program with Senator Daniel Inouye in 1984, and I take great pride in the work that I have done since then to reauthorize it over the years. As we near the 35th anniversary of EMSC, we can look back on the great progress we have made. Indeed, we have made significant strides in assuring that emergency medical personnel and systems are trained to effectively treat pediatric patients while in transport to a medical facility.

As we have said time and time again, children are not just small adults. They have different medical needs, presenting special challenges for emergency and trauma care providers. From smaller-sized medical equipment to different dosage requirements for medicines, pediatric patients have important physical, mental, and developmental differences from adults. It is the EMSC program that ensures state-of-the-art emergency medical care for all sick or injured children and adolescents across the entire spectrum of care.

My home State of Utah has played such an influential role with EMSC in advancing the level of emergency medical care for children. The University of Utah is home to the EMSC program's National Emergency Medical

Services for Children Data Analysis Resource Center, which is critical to helping States to evaluate EMS system effectiveness and pediatric patient care. Also housed at the University of Utah is the Central Data Management Coordinating Center for the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network. The DCC serves as the central data repository for the PECARN, which conducts high-priority, multi-institutional research on the prevention and management of acute illnesses and injuries in youth of all ages.

Throughout its history, EMSC has received overwhelming bipartisan support. The program makes a large impact with a relatively small budget, aiding all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories in improving their EMS systems, and developing improved procedures and protocols for treating children. I urge my colleagues to support our reauthorization bill so that the EMSC program will continue to improve emergency medical care for children in the United States.

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

S.J. Res. 64. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to “Returns by Exempt Organizations and Returns by Certain Non-Exempt Organizations”; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 643—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BRUTAL AND SENSELESS ATTACK AT A COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, 1 YEAR AGO

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 643

Whereas, in the late hours of Sunday, October 1, 2017, an individual killed 58 people and wounded more than 800 innocent people in a horrific attack at the Route 91 Harvest festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, with more than 22,000 people in attendance;

Whereas President Donald Trump called the attack an act of pure evil and said that unity cannot be shattered by evil and that the bonds between the people of the United States cannot be broken by violence;

Whereas the attack is the deadliest mass shooting in the modern history of the United States;

Whereas the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and other law enforcement professionals within the city of Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada, including emergency response teams from Henderson and North Las Vegas, the Nevada Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, military service members and veterans, ambulatory services, and other emergency

and health care professionals responded to the attack bravely, admirably, and in a coordinated manner, saving many lives;

Whereas doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other medical professionals worked around the clock under harrowing circumstances to provide life-saving care for hundreds of victims;

Whereas, during the attack, countless civilians selflessly assisted victims and, following the attack—

(1) hundreds of individuals stood in long lines to donate blood for those who were injured in the attack; and

(2) the people of Las Vegas, Clark County, the State of Nevada, and the United States expressed overwhelming financial, physical, and emotional support for the victims and the families of the victims;

Whereas local organizations, businesses, and caregivers came together with Federal, State, and local government agencies to support the victims and help the community heal;

Whereas Nevada has a vibrant and renowned tourism economy that has continued to thrive, attracting and welcoming millions of visitors from across the United States and internationally, and emergency management officials have diligently dedicated local and Federal resources to boost public safety and security in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

Whereas October 1, 2018, marks 1 year since the horrific attack: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the victims killed in the attack and offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the survivors and pledges continued support for their recovery;

(3) offers compassion to those who attended the event, but were not physically injured, and are dealing with symptoms of post-traumatic stress or seeking grief counseling;

(4) recognizes the spirit and resilience of the Las Vegas and Nevada communities;

(5) applauds the dedication and bravery of local, State, and Federal law enforcement and counterterrorism officials and emergency medical and health care professionals for their coordinated efforts in responding to the attack, securing the community, and providing treatment; and

(6) expresses gratitude to the Las Vegas community, Nevadans, and all people of the United States, as well as local, State, and Federal governments, for coming together to support the families of the victims and survivors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 644—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION OF THE COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION AND DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 25, 2018, “COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION DAY”

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 644

Whereas the Country Music Association was founded in 1958 as the first not-for-profit trade organization to promote a genre of music;

Whereas the organization began with 160 members and has grown to more than 7,400 industry professionals around the world, representing every aspect of the business—

(1) to guide the evolution of country music; and



(2) to provide unity of purpose within the industry;

Whereas the long-standing mission of the Country Music Association is to heighten the awareness of country music around the world and to support the continued growth of country music by recognizing excellence in the genre and serving as a repository for critical and timely information and communication, all while providing a forum for industry leadership;

Whereas country music is the story of the United States, one that celebrates everyday life, evoking celebration and pain, joy and sorrow, love and loss, and connecting those near and far, in the United States and across the globe;

Whereas the preservation by the Country Music Association of the uniquely rich heritage and time-honored traditions of country music continues to lead the advancement of country music;

Whereas the Country Music Association Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Country Music Association established in 2011, is committed to improving and sustaining music education programs across the United States, having invested more than \$21,000,000 through the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas, in 2018, the Country Music Association celebrates 60 years of honoring the success of its leaders and professionals and its unique ability—

(1) to embrace risks and change; and  
(2) to bring a sense of unity to the genre and the country music community; and

Whereas the people of the United States recognize the excellence of the Country Music Association: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the significant contributions of the Country Music Association over 60 years and designates September 25, 2018, as “Country Music Association Day”.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 645—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS “NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 645

Whereas over 2,900,000 men in the United States live with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 9 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetimes and 1 in 41 men in the United States will die from prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed nonskin cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States;

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates that in 2018, 164,690 men will be diagnosed with, and more than 29,430 men will die of, prostate cancer;

Whereas 42.2 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in men under the age of 65;

Whereas the odds of developing prostate cancer rise rapidly after age 50;

Whereas African-American men suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is significantly higher than that of White men and have more than double the prostate cancer mortality rate than that of White men;

Whereas having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles the risk

of a man developing prostate cancer, with a higher risk for men who have a brother with the disease and the highest risk for men with several affected relatives;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease at the earlier, more treatable stages, which could increase the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 30 percent of men survive more than 5 years if diagnosed with prostate cancer after the cancer has metastasized;

Whereas there are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer in the early stages, making appropriate screening critical;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2018, the Director of the National Institutes of Health supported approximately \$259,000,000 in research projects focused specifically on prostate cancer;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of men and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2018 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to encourage research—

(i) to improve screening and treatment for prostate cancer;

(ii) to discover the causes of prostate cancer; and

(iii) to develop a cure for prostate cancer; and

(C) to continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### SAM FARR AND NICK CASTLE PEACE CORPS REFORM ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 508, H.R. 2259.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2259) to amend the Peace Corps Act to expand services and benefits for volunteers, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. ROUNDS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. ROUNDS. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2259) was passed.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BRUTAL AND SENSELESS ATTACK AT A COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, 1 YEAR AGO

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 643, 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. 643) honoring the memory of the victims of the brutal and senseless attack at a country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, 1 year ago.

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

Mr. ROUNDS. 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 take with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 643) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION DAY

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 644, 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. 644) recognizing the significant contribution of the Country Music Association and designating September 25, 2018, “Country Music Association Day.”

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

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that 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. 644) was agreed to.

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

#### NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 645, 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. 645) designating September 2018 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month."

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

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I further 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. 645) 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, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 25; 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 Feldman nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

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

Mr. ROUNDS. 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 6:55 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

##### Executive nominations received by the Senate:

###### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BIMAL PATEL, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL, RESIGNED.

###### UNITED NATIONS

RON JOHNSON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

JEFF MERKLEY, OF OREGON, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

###### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PAMELA BATES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

###### UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINA CHANG, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE JONATHAN NICHOLAS STIVERS.

###### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SARAH-ANN LYNCH, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

###### UNITED NATIONS

MARGARITA PALAU-HERNANDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

###### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUSAN N. STEVENSON, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA.

###### UNITED NATIONS

ELIZABETH ERIN WALSH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

###### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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

LT. GEN. JERRY D. HARRIS, JR.

###### 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

VICE ADM. ANDREW L. LEWIS

###### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

##### To be major

PATRICK C. DEGRAAF  
TIMOTHY B. MITCHELL  
BRAD D. NELSON  
CHRISTOPHER L. PRIDGEN

###### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

JOHN J. KAIKKONEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be colonel

MARC A. PATTERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be colonel

JAMES E. MATISKO

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

##### To be colonel

JAMES B. ELLEDGE

###### IN THE NAVY

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

##### To be commander

TILFORD L. CLARK

###### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SANDI R. B. ALLAWAY, OF WASHINGTON  
DANA A. BARNHILL, OF WASHINGTON  
SHIRIN BASKEY, OF TEXAS  
ALISON F. BASSI, OF ILLINOIS  
EMMANIA R. BLUM, OF NEW YORK  
BRYAN T. BURKE, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW CARNEY, OF VIRGINIA  
TIMOTHY R. CARPENTER, OF TEXAS  
PHATHANIE CHAPMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ERIC R. COULSON, OF CALIFORNIA  
EAVAN K. CULLY, OF NEW YORK  
MEGHAN E. DEAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PATRICK G. DIGNAN, OF FLORIDA  
KEVIN G. ELLERBROCK, OF OHIO  
LYLE S. GOODE, OF CALIFORNIA  
CHRISTOPHER J. GROTH, OF CALIFORNIA  
TARA N. HALL, OF TENNESSEE  
KELLY L. HART, OF TEXAS  
LEE A. HILGARTNER, OF ALASKA  
WILLIAM C. HOPE, OF WASHINGTON  
ARIEL A. HUERTA, OF CALIFORNIA  
GABRIEL L. HURST, OF NEW YORK  
MICHAEL J. KLINE, OF VIRGINIA  
ANASTASIA M. KOLIVAS, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ANDREW G. LEYVA, OF VIRGINIA  
KRISTIN M. LUNDBERG, OF VIRGINIA  
GARHETT G. MECHAM, OF NEVADA  
KEVIN A. MILES, OF CALIFORNIA  
KENNETH C. MILLEN, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT EUGENE MILLER, OF VIRGINIA  
KEVIN B. MILLS, OF VIRGINIA  
ADNAN S. MITHANI, OF TEXAS  
GILLIAN S. OAK, OF VIRGINIA  
FRED F. ODISHO, OF ILLINOIS  
MICHAEL A. OSKIN, OF ILLINOIS  
KURT D. PEARSON, OF VIRGINIA  
TRISHA LYONS PRESTO, OF MARYLAND  
PAIGE T. PUNTISO, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
KRISTINA ROSALES KOSTRUKOVA, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN THOMAS ROSEN-MOLINA, OF CALIFORNIA  
ANDREA M. SANTORO, OF TEXAS  
MARK J. SCHAEVER, OF KENTUCKY  
KATHRYNE BRIDGIT SCHILLING, OF TEXAS  
BRYAN E. SCHUBERT, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NABIL A. SIDDIQI, OF VIRGINIA  
HANNAH SIN, OF CALIFORNIA  
JOHN THOMAS V. SKERRY III, OF VIRGINIA  
EMMA JANE TEWKSBURY-VOLPE, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ZOE R. TREUER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
AMELIA B. VANDERLAAN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FREDERIC VELLUCCI, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID L. WILLEY, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
HUI JUN TINA WONG, OF VIRGINIA  
SHIRLENE YEE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### CONFIRMATIONS

##### Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 24, 2018:

###### INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

JACKIE WOLCOTT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

###### UNITED NATIONS

JACKIE WOLCOTT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE VIENNA OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.