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of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019

No. 207

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 2, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, as we begin this new year, we do so with a great hope.

We know that You are with us and want to guide our every step.

We ask a special grace upon all those who will serve here.

May Your presence fill this space and our hearts, inspiring us to love all our sisters and brothers and to serve them in humility and peace.

We make this prayer in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 1180, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM), the whole number of the House is now 432.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 1180, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 3, 2019.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 3, 2019, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7353. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations Systems, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Foreign Commercial Satellite Services and Certain Items on the Commerce Control List (DFARS Case 2018-D020) [Docket: DARS-2018-0060] (RIN: 0750-AJ82) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7354. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations Systems, Department of Defense, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of the Limitations on Single-Source Task or Delivery Order Contracts (DFARS Case 2018-D060) [Docket: DARS-2018-0058] (RIN: 0750-AK21) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7355. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations Systems, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Restrictions on Acquisitions from Foreign Sources (DFARS Case 2017-D011) [Docket: DARS-2018-0004] (RIN: 0750-AJ22) (RIN: 0750-AJ22) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7356. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations Systems, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Electronic Submission and Processing of Payment Requests and Receiving Reports (DFARS Case 2016-D032) [Docket: DARS-2018-0037] (RIN: 0750-AJ44) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7357. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations Systems, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Submission of Summary Subcontract Reports (DFARS Case 2017-D005) [Docket: DARS-2018-0018] (RIN: 0750-AJ42) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7358. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits Program Reforms [DOD-2018-HA-0062] (RIN: 0720-AB75) received December 21, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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7359. A letter from the Director, Bureau Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's annual report to Congress on college credit card agreements, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637(r)(3); Public Law 90-321, Sec. 127 (as amended by Public Law 111-24, Sec. 305(a)); (123 Stat. 1750); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7360. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; Medicare Shared Savings Program; Accountable Care Organizations-Pathways to Success and Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Policies for Performance Year 2017 [CMS-1701-F2 and CMS-1702-F] (RINs: 0938-AT45 and 0938-AT51) received December 27, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7361. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — North Dakota: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions [EPA-R08-UST-2018-0728; FRL-9986-98-Region 8] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7362. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Tolfenpyrad; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0587; FRL-9987-34] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7363. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — North Dakota: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R08-RCRA-2018-0554; FRL-9986-24-Region 8] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7364. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mefenoxam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0562; FRL-9985-52] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7365. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Louisiana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R06-RCRA-2018-0395; FRL-9987-30-Region 6] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7366. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; NAAQS and VOC Updates [EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0302; EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0303; EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0589; FRL-9988-04-Region 5] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7367. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chlorate; Pesticide Exemp-

tions From Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0063; FRL-9986-85] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7368. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; WA; Updates to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R10-OAR-2018-0796; FRL-9987-76-Region 10] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7369. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina: NOx Rule Revisions [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0432; FRL-9988-25-Region 4] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7370. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0383; FRL-9988-37-Region 5] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7371. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Indiana; Revised Designation of Illinois and Indiana 2012 PM2.5 Unclassifiable Areas [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0368; EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0556; FRL-9988-38-Region 5] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7372. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID, West Silver Valley PM 2.5 Clean Data Determination [EPA-R10-OAR-2017-0170; FRL-9988-17-Region 10] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7373. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's correcting amendment — Air Plan Approval; AK: Fine Particulate Matter Infrastructure Requirements [EPA-R10-OAR-2017-0597; FRL-9988-51-Region 10] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7374. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Feather River Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0559; FRL-9987-78-Region 9] received December 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7375. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — General Schedule Locality Pay Areas (RIN: 3206-AN64) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7376. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Veterans' Preference

(RIN: 3206-AN47) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7377. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Reporting Multistate Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications [NOTICE: 2018-17] received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on House Administration.

7378. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Mile 28.0 to 29.2, Vanport, Pennsylvania [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0653] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7379. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Delaware River, Dredging Operation Equipment Recovery, Marcus Hook Range, Chester, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0913] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7380. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; NASA Activities, Gulf of Mexico, Galveston, TX [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0962] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7381. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zones; Pipeline Construction, Tennessee River Miles 465 to 466, Chattanooga, TN [Docket No.: USCG-2018-1030] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7382. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Delaware River, Pennsauken Township, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0257] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 20, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GOWDY: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Activities of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 115th Congress (Rept. 115-1114). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. Report on the Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Ways and Means During the 115th Congress (Rept. 115-1115). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6741. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to increase monetary policy transparency and accountability and to make reforms to the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 115-1116, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4278. A bill to ensure that the operations of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System remain independent from the credit policy of the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-1117). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2128. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to permit private persons to compel the Securities and Exchange Commission to seek legal or equitable remedies in a civil action, instead of an administrative proceeding, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-1118). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4247. A bill to repeal title VIII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Rept. 115-1119). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Report of the Activities of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives During the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (Rept. 115-1120). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN: Committee on Appropriations. Committee on Appropriations House of Representatives Annual Report of Committee Activities 115th Congress (Rept. 115-1121). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. Report on the Activity of the

Committee on Financial Services of the United States House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (Rept. 115-1122). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. Report on the Activities of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the 115th Congress (Rept. 115-1123). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOMACK: Committee on the Budget. Activities and Summary Report of the Committee on the Budget House of Representatives One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (Rept. 115-1124). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana: Committee on Ethics. Summary of Activities One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (Rept. 115-1125). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WALDEN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. Activity Report of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (Rept. 115-1126). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Rules discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6741 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 7400. A bill making continuing appropriations for the Coast Guard; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 7401. A bill to modify provisions of law relating to refugee resettlement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 7400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 7401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 5472: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 7295: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 7368: Ms. BONAMICI.



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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019

No. 207

Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, from whom all desires and good counsels proceed, rise mercifully upon our darkened hearts, and deliver us from the trench warfare of yet another government shutdown. Wipe out all our old, secret, and selfish desires so that we may be true instruments for Your glory. Lord, remind our lawmakers that You are our strength and that those who abandon You cannot ultimately prevail.

Be near to this Nation, O Lord. We are Your children and find our protection in You.

We pray in Your mighty 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 2, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN, a Sen-

ator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BOOZMAN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

CHILD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2017

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 695, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 695, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

(Mr. GARDNER assumed the Chair.)

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to wish my colleagues happy new year. It is a time for new beginnings. Tomorrow, we will kick off the 116th Congress.

Of course, there is urgent business that the new House and the new Senate will need to tackle immediately. Democrats will finally have to get serious about border security so a government funding agreement can be reached that can pass the House, earn 60 votes in the Senate, and get a Presidential signature. All three of those things are needed to make a law. One partisan vote in the House tomorrow is not going to solve anything.

I made it clear to the Speaker that we are not interested in having show votes in the Senate. We are interested in bringing up something the House has passed, 60 Senators will support, and the President will sign; in other words, make a law.

The legislation House Democrats are reportedly planning to introduce and have voted on tomorrow will not be a serious contribution to the negotiations that are going on between the administration and the incoming Democratic majority in the House. It isn't comprehensive. It ignores the needs of border security. It is exactly the kind of proposal you would expect if the incoming House Democrats were choosing to stage a political sideshow rather than doing the hard work of helping to govern the country; in other words, it is a total nonstarter.

Will these new Democrats come to Washington ready to roll up their sleeves, work together, and make laws or are they going to waste time on partisan show votes that will do nothing to move the country in a forward direction? That is the question, political performance art or responsible governance?

We will get an early signal in the next few days, but let me make it perfectly clear one more time, as I have

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said consistently for the last 2 weeks: The Senate will not waste its time considering a Democratic bill which cannot pass this Chamber and which the President will not sign.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on another matter, I am pleased to announce this evening that the Democratic leader and I have reached an agreement to confirm a number of the administration's nominees. In a few moments, I will be asking unanimous consent to confirm a series of several well-qualified individuals to serve in important executive branch posts. Each of them will be confirmed. I am glad the President will have more of his rightful team in place, and I am glad this group of newly confirmed nominees will be able to get to work on important business for the American people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaty on today's Executive Calendar No. 7. I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having passed through its various parliamentary stages, up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification; that any committee conditions, declarations, or reservations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as if read; further, that when the resolution of ratification is voted upon, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider Treaty Document No. 114-7, U.N. Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for a division vote on the resolution of ratification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the resolution of ratification.

All in favor stand and be counted. All opposed stand and be counted.

Two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Understandings and Declarations.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade, done at New York on December 12, 2001, and signed by the United States on December 30, 2003 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 114-7), subject to the understandings of section 2 and the declarations of sections 3 and 4.

Sec. 2. Understandings.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following under-

standings, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) It is the understanding of the United States that paragraph (2)(e) of Article 4 excludes from the scope of the Convention the assignment of—

(A) receivables that are securities, regardless of whether such securities are held with an intermediary; and

(B) receivables that are not securities, but are financial assets or instruments, if such financial assets or instruments are held with an intermediary.

(2) It is the understanding of the United States that the phrase "that place where the central administration of the assignor or the assignee is exercised," as used in Articles 5(h) and 36 of the Convention, has a meaning equivalent to the phrase, "that place where the chief executive office of the assignor or assignee is located."

(3) It is the understanding of the United States that the reference, in the definition of "financial contract" in Article 5(k), to "any other transaction similar to any transaction referred to above entered into in financial markets" is intended to include transactions that are or become the subject of recurrent dealings in financial markets and under which payment rights are determined by reference to—

(A) underlying asset classes; or

(B) quantitative measures of economic or financial risk or value associated with an occurrence or contingency. Examples are transactions under which payment rights are determined by reference to weather statistics, freight rates, emissions allowances, or economic statistics.

(4) It is the understanding of the United States that because the Convention applies only to "receivables," which are defined in Article 2(a) as contractual rights to payment of a monetary sum, the Convention does not apply to other rights of a party to a license of intellectual property or an assignment or other transfer of an interest in intellectual property or other types of interests that are not a contractual right to payment of a monetary sum.

(5) The United States understands that, with respect to Article 24 of the Convention, the Article requires a Contracting State to provide a certain minimum level of rights to an assignee with respect to proceeds, but that it does not prohibit Contracting States from providing additional rights in such proceeds to such an assignee.

Sec. 3. Declarations to be Included in the Instrument of Ratification.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declarations, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) Pursuant to Article 23(3), the United States declares that, in an insolvency proceeding of the assignor, the insolvency laws of the United States or its territorial units may under some circumstances—

(A) result in priority over the rights of an assignee being given to a lender extending credit to the insolvency estate, or to an insolvency administrator that expends funds of the insolvency estate for the preservation of the assigned receivables (see, for example, title 11 of the United States Code, sections 364(d) and 506(c)); or

(B) subject the assignment of receivables to avoidance rules, such as those dealing with preferences, undervalued transactions and transactions intended to defeat, delay, or hinder creditors of the assignor.

(2) Pursuant to Article 36 of the Convention, the United States declares that, with respect to an assignment of receivables governed by enactments of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted in one of its territorial units, if an assignor's location

pursuant to Article 5(h) of the Convention is the United States and, under the location rules contained in section 9-307 of the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted in that territorial unit, the assignor is located in a territorial unit of the United States, that territorial unit is the location of the assignor for purposes of this Convention.

(3) Pursuant to Article 37 of the Convention, the United States declares that any reference in the Convention to the law of the United States means the law in force in the territorial unit thereof determined in accordance with Article 36 and the Article 5(h) definition of location. However, to the extent under the conflict-of-laws rules in force in that territorial unit, a particular matter would be governed by the law in force in a different territorial unit of the United States, the reference to "law of the United States" with respect to that matter is to the law in force in the different territorial unit. The conflict-of-laws rules referred to in the preceding sentence refer primarily to the conflict-of-laws rules in section 9-301 of the Uniform Commercial Code as enacted in each State of the United States.

(4) Pursuant to Article 39 of the Convention, the United States declares that it will not be bound by chapter V of the Convention.

(5) Pursuant to Article 40, the United States declares that the Convention does not affect contractual anti-assignment provisions where the debtor is a governmental entity or an entity constituted for a public purpose in the United States.

Sec. 4. Self-Execution Declaration.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: This Convention is self-executing.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the consideration of PN1999; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

Thereupon, the committee was discharged, and the Senate considered and confirmed the nominations as follows:

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 271(d).

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Matthew T. Bell, Jr.
Rear Adm. (lh) Melissa Bert
Rear Adm. (lh) David M. Dermanelian
Rear Adm. (lh) Robert P Hayes
Rear Adm. (lh) Andrew J. Tiongson
Rear Adm. (lh) Anthony J. Vogt

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations:

PN2210, PN2270, PN1963, PN2213, PN2437, PN2448, PN2450, and PN2598.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Robert S. Brewer, Jr., of California, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of California for the term of four years; Nicholas A. Trutanich, of Nevada, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nevada for the term of four years; Brian T. Moran, of Washington, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington for the term of four years; Matthew J. Schneider, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years; John C. Mihliser, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years; David L. Anderson, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of California for the term of four years; Lawrence Keefe, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years; and Aaron L. Weisman, of Rhode Island, to be United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island for the term of four years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN1893, PN2242, PN1965, PN2120, PN2214, and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN1893, PN2242, PN1965, PN2120, PN2214, Calendar No. 1148, Calendar No. 1149, and Calendar No. 1150.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Denny Wade King, of Tennessee, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years; John M. Garrison, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of four years; Todd L. Nukes, of Indiana, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of four years; Michael S. Yeager, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of four years; Mark B. Shepherd, of Mississippi, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years; Kim Gaffney, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Wisconsin for the term of four years; Bradley Jay LaRose, of Vermont, to be United States Marshal for the District of Vermont for the term of four years; and Douglas J. Strike, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN2642 and PN2641.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations.

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of L. E. Sola, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2023; and Daniel B. Maffei, of New York, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2022 (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations, Executive Calendar Nos. 1106 and 1107.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations of Tamara Bonzanto, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection); and James

Paul Gfrerer, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Bonzanto and Gfrerer?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 1198 and 1199.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations of Donald L. Palmer, of Florida, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2021; and Benjamin Hovland, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2019, en bloc.

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

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

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN2702, PN2703, PN2704, and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar No. 1192, PN2702, PN2703, and PN2704.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the

Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Erhard R. Chorle, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2022; Johnathan Bragg, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2019; Johnathan Bragg, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2024 (Reappointment); and Thomas Jayne, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2023?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 1092.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James W. Carroll, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 612, 940, 1078, 1079, 1143, and 1144.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any state-

ments relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Brendan Carr, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2018; Geoffrey Adam Starks, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2017; Kelvin Droegemeier, of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; Joel Szabat, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation; Thomas F. Gilman, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce; and Thomas F. Gilman, of Arizona, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 1049.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination of Mary Bridget Neumayr, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

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

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the consideration of nomination PN2478.

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

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination of Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made

and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1080, 1052, 1075, 1145, 1146, 1170, and 1171.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations of Rae Oliver, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Teri L. Donaldson, of Texas, to be Inspector General of the Department of Energy; Carmen Guerricagoitia McLean, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; Michael Kubayanda, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2020; Steven Dillingham, of Virginia, to be Director of the Census for a term expiring December 31, 2021; Gail S. Ennis, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Social Security Administration; and Richard S. Tischner, of Virginia, to be Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia for a term of six years.

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

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

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 823 and 1044.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations

of Patrick Fuchs, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for the term of five years and Martin J. Oberman, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2023.

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fuchs and Oberman nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 1016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination of Daniel Simmons, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).

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

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 1108, 1110, and 1112.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations of Casey Wardynski, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; Alex A. Beehler, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; and Alan Ray Shaffer, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no inter-

vening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wardynski, Beehler, and Shaffer nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 1041, 1124, 1125, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Foreign Service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations of Ellen E. McCarthy, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research); 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; Michael T. Harvey, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, 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 Central African Republic; Donald Armin Blome, of Illinois, 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 Tunisia; Craig Lewis Cloud, of Florida, 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 Botswana; Judith Gail Garber, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus; Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, 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 Mali; Simon Henshaw, of Massa-

chusetts, 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 Guinea; William H. Moser, of North Carolina, 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 Kazakhstan; Michael Peter Pelletier, of Maine, 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 Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of the Comoros; Richard Carlton Paschall III, of North Carolina, 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 The Gambia; Eric Williams Stromayer, of Virginia, 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 Togolese Republic; Eric George Nelson, of Texas, 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dennis Walter Hearne, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mozambique; Patricia Mahoney, of Virginia, 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 Benin; John Mark Pommersheim, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan; 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; Kyle McCarter, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya; Michael S. Klecheski, of New York, 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 Mongolia; Matthew John Matthews, of Virginia, 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 Brunei Darussalam; Earle D. Litzenger, of California, 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 Azerbaijan; 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; Christopher Paul Henzel, of Virginia, 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 Armenia; Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr., of Tennessee, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of Australia; Bonnie Glick, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McCarthy, JOHNSON, MERKLEY, Harvey, Tamlyn, Blome, Cloud, Garber, Hankins, Henshaw, Moser, Pelletier, Paschall, Stromayer, Nelson, Hearne, Mahoney, Pommersheim, Stevenson, McCarter, Klecheski, Matthews, Litzenger, Lynch, Henzel, Tracy, Culvahouse, Glick, Perez nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The further nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN2131-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Michael Ashkouri, and ending John H. Piggott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 11, 2018.

PN2369 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Daniel Mark Smolka, which was received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2018.

PN2370 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (171) beginning James Robert Adams, and ending Christopher M. Zveare, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2018.

PN2541 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (54) beginning Sandi R. B. Allaway, and ending Shirlene Yee, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 24, 2018.

PN2570 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (193) beginning Zachary Maxwell Aberman, and ending Daniella Jaoska Zelaya, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 5, 2018.

PN2571 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Mark A. Dries, and ending Ralph K. Bean, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 5, 2018.

PN2622-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (176) beginning Kelly E. Adams-Smith, and ending Jorge R. Vazquez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2018.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

TREATY WITHDRAWALS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to call attention to President Trump's recent decisions to withdraw or threaten U.S. withdrawal from four treaties: the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, INF Treaty; the Universal Postal Union, UPU, treaty; the Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, "VCDR Option Protocol"; and the Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights between the United States and Iran, "Treaty of Amity". The President made these decisions without notice or meaningful consultation with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the congressional committee charged with responsibility and jurisdiction over treaties.

As the ranking member of that committee, I am compelled to strenuously object to the manner in which the President has acted, but all Senators should protest, regardless of their views on the substance of the respective agreements. The President's actions erode the constitutional powers of this body and our institutional prerogatives.

Article 2 of the Constitution endows the President and the Senate with shared power over treaties. The President, it states, "shall have power, by

and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur."

While the Constitution does not expressly dictate a procedure for terminating treaty relationships, Senators have long asserted that the shared treaty power extends to withdrawal and therefore also requires Senate advice and consent. Even though the executive branch may not agree with this position, what is unacceptable is that Senators are first learning about these withdrawals online or in the newspaper instead of through proactive outreach by and meaningful dialogue with the executive branch.

President Trump has regrettably shown exceedingly little respect for the Constitution and for the institutional prerogatives of this body. I stand today to highlight one area in which he has actively undermined the Senate's constitutional role and authority. I plan to do everything in my power to protect the Senate's role and responsibilities over treaties and urge all of my colleagues to join in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO ALISE ORLOFF

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, before the 115th Congress draws to a close, I want to recognize and thank Alise Orloff, who retired on July 1, 2017, after serving more than 36 years as a U.S. Capitol tour guide.

Alise is a proud Marylander and lifelong resident of Silver Spring. An alumna of Northwood High School, she graduated cum laude from the University of Maryland College Park in 1981 with a bachelor of science in education. While at UMCP, she was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in recognition of her academic excellence, integrity, and service to the community and into Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education.

Between her junior and senior years in college, in 1980, Alise worked as a seasonal Capitol guide and was invited to return for the summer of 1981. Although Alise received several job offers in teaching, she relished the opportunity she had at the Capitol to learn something new every day and to make a difference in the lives of visitors. On December 19, 1981, she became a full-time Capitol guide, first with the U.S. Capitol Guide Service and then, after the opening of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, with the Architect of the Capitol.

Capitol guides are Congress's frontline representatives to the visiting public. To a great extent, our visiting constituents' opinions of us are formed by their experiences on tours. Alise is a patriotic American who loves the Capitol Building and treasured the privilege and honor of working in it to educate people about our government. As a professional educator, she enjoyed researching and learning about Congress, art, architecture, history, and the legislative process. She could give an accurate and diplomatic answer to any

visitor's question. In doing so, she hoped that we might be more unified as a country, love our country, and appreciate each other's differences. At the end of a tour, she found it gratifying when Capitol visitors would say, "Thank you. I learned something new." Her colleagues especially appreciated the graciousness and poise she maintained while providing first-class constituent service. She was a role model to her peers.

Alise's 36 years as a guide began during the 96th Congress and concluded during the 115th, spanning many historic events within the Capitol and seven Presidencies, from Jimmy Carter's to Donald Trump's. In addition to leading public and special tours, she worked at Presidential inaugurations, Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies, Joint Sessions of Congress, statue and bust dedications, and lying-in-state ceremonies, including those of Senators Claude Pepper and Daniel K. Inouye. Having been at work on September 11, 2001, she was especially touched by the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring the fallen heroes of that day. Much of her extended family was lost in the Holocaust, which made working at the Holocaust Days of Remembrance ceremonies especially meaningful for her. Another special moment included Speaker Tip O'Neill asking her, "Are you a baseball fan?" when she went to his office to give a tour to the Boston Red Sox. Likewise, the day she gave a tour to the team of NASA astronauts who brought Dr. Shannon Lucid back to earth was one she will never forget.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude and appreciation to Alise Orloff, who inspired and educated visitors to the U.S. Capitol for more than 36 years. We wish her well in her new role as scholarship coordinator for the University of Maryland College Park Chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT SILL

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to Fort Sill in Oklahoma in preparation of this great military installation's 150th anniversary on January 8, 2019. For 150 years, Fort Sill has played a critical role in our national defense, from an outpost to prevent border raids, to today as the home of the Fires Center of Excellence and Basic Combat Training site. The history of Fort Sill can be traced back to January 8, 1869, when Major General Philip H. Sheridan staked out the site of Fort Sill in a campaign into Indian Territory to prevent border settlements from being raided in Texas and Kansas. The garrison was initially named Camp Wichita and was later renamed after Brigadier General Joshua W. Sill, in honor of General Sheridan's

West Point classmate and friend who was killed during the American Civil War.

The first post commander was Brevet Major General Benjamin Grierson, and the first Indian agent was Colonel Albert Gallatin Boone, grandson of Daniel Boone. The last Indian lands in Oklahoma opened for settlement in 1901, and 29,000 homesteaders registered at Fort Sill during July for the land lottery. On August 6, 1901, the town of Lawton was established and quickly grew to become the third largest city in Oklahoma and was later renamed Lawton-Fort Sill.

With the disappearance of the frontier, the mission of Fort Sill gradually changed from cavalry to field artillery as the first artillery battery arrived at Fort Sill in 1902, and the last cavalry regiment departed in May 1907. In 1917, the Henry Post Army Airfield was constructed for artillery observation and spotting. The School of Fire for the Field Artillery was founded at Fort Sill in 1911 and continues to operate today as the world-renowned U.S. Army Field Artillery School. At various historic times, Fort Sill has also served as home to the Infantry School of Musketry, the School for Aerial Observers, the Artillery Officers Candidate School—Robinson Barracks—the Air Service Flying School, and the Army Aviation School. Fort Sill is the birthplace of military combat aviation, 1st Aero Squadron. It is home to Henry Post Army Airfield, the oldest airfield in the Army. In August 1917, Captain H.R. Eyrich surveyed a new airfield location at Fort Sill and established the airfield, which is named after Second Lieutenant Henry D. Post.

Fort Sill remains the only Active Army installation of all the forts on the South Plains built during the Indian Wars and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960. Fort Sill serves as home of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School; the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School; the 428th Field Artillery Training Brigade; the 30th Air Defense Artillery Training Brigade; the 434th Field Artillery Basic Combat Training Brigade; the Marine Corps Field Artillery Military Occupational Specialty school, the 75th (Forces Command) Fires Brigade; and the 31st (Forces Command) Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

Thousands of soldiers and marines have been trained for service in the field artillery at Fort Sill. Notable alumni include President Harry S. Truman, who during World War I became the commander of Company D, 129th Field Artillery, entering combat in the last few months of the war, moving his horse-drawn battery to engage the enemy and supporting the infantry, firing his last shot on the day of the armistice.

It is also important to recognize the positive impact and connectivity of the Lawton-Fort Sill relationship. The connection between the community and the military installation is what

makes Fort Sill so unique and successful. The community members and representatives are equally responsible for the rich history and successes of Fort Sill. Based on exemplary community support and vision, Fort Sill has actually benefited from five rounds of Base Realignment and Closure. Through these five rounds, the mission and importance of Fort Sill has increased. This highlights the fact that Fort Sill is more than just a military installation, for 150 years Fort Sill has been a part of the community.

As Fort Sill turns 150, the senior leadership at the installation represent the long history of high-caliber military personnel who have set foot at Fort Sill. I would like to recognize the following personnel: the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commanding general MG Wilson Shoffner, Jr.; Fires Center of Excellence CSM John W. Folley; Fort Sill garrison commander COL Don A. King, Jr.; Fires Center of Excellence Field Artillery School commandant BG Stephen G. Smith; and Fires Center of Excellence Air Defense Artillery School commandant BG Brian W. Gibson.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I want to congratulate Fort Sill on 150 successful years and thank the men and women who have served their nation while assigned to Fort Sill for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation.●

MESSAGES 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 December 27, 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. 512. An act to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

S. 1023. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

S. 1158. An act to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States Government capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

S. 1580. An act to enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.

S. 1862. An act to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to modify the criteria for determining whether countries are meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 3247. An act to improve programs and activities relating to women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment that are carried out by the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes.

S. 3456. An act to redesignate Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge as the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes.

S. 3661. An act to provide for a program of the Department of Defense to commemorate the 75th anniversary of World War II.

H.R. 672. An act to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4689. An act to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska.

H.R. 5636. An act to designate additions to the Flatside Wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6602. An act to reauthorize the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7279. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for an integrated planning process, to promote green infrastructure, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7318. An act to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to ensure that the Public Buildings Reform Board has adequate time to carry out the responsibilities of the Board, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7319. An act to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to provide flexibility with respect to the leaseback of certain Federal real property, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bills were signed on December 31, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. GARDNER).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 31, 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 bill:)

H.R. 4174. An act to amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Acting President pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) announced that on today, January 2, 2019, he has signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore of the House (Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 4174. An act to amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Assistant Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 2, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 512. An act to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

S. 1023. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

S. 1158. An act to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States Government capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

S. 1580. An act to enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.

S. 1862. An act to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to modify the criteria for determining whether countries are meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 3247. An act to improve programs and activities relating to women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment that are carried out by the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes.

S. 3456. An act to redesignate Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge as the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes.

S. 3661. An act to provide for a program of the Department of Defense to commemorate the 75th anniversary of World War II.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7578. A communication from the Acting Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bureau's strategic plan for fiscal years 2018-2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7579. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the intention to initiate negotiations with the European Union (EU); to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7580. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education's Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7581. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7582. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and Privacy Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7583. A communication from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Annual Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was re-

ferred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-320. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to pass the language from the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, as contained in the Farm Bill of 2018, removing industrial hemp from the Schedule 1 Controlled Substance List and legalizing commercial industrial hemp production in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 421

Whereas, A bipartisan effort has taken place at both the Federal and State levels to pass legislation which would allow American farmers to compete with foreign nations in industrial hemp production; and

Whereas, The United States relied upon hemp production from the time period of the Mayflower voyage to the War of 1812 and through every world war; and

Whereas, Hemp production in Pennsylvania has a 260-year history due to the favorable climate and soil; and

Whereas, Industrial hemp plants are cultivated for products derived from the whole plant, including stalk, seeds, flower and roots for products including fiber, food, oil and extracts; and

Whereas, Industrial hemp has thousands of applications and can be refined into a variety of commercial products including paper, textiles, biodegradable plastics, cannabinoids, paint, insulation, biofuel, food and animal feed; and

Whereas, Each year, American companies are forced to import millions of dollars' worth of industrial hemp seed and fiber products annually from China, Canada, Europe and other countries; and

Whereas, Industrial hemp has often been confused with marijuana, as it is a member of the cannabis family; however, it has no psychoactive effect due to a very low level of tetrahydrocannabinol; and

Whereas, Chapter 7 of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes defines industrial hemp as the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of the plant with less than three-tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as THC; and

Whereas, Uncertainty about Federal laws inhibits investment in the United States and Pennsylvania hemp industry by agricultural producers, manufacturers, processors and other businesses; and

Whereas, Section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the Farm Bill of 2014 and the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2016, authorized State industrial hemp agricultural pilot research programs and the activities associated with such programs; and

Whereas, The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth, farmers, researchers and industry leaders recognized the potential for opportunities in industrial hemp production and products and in investment in Pennsylvania's industrial hemp industry where this Commonwealth could become a national leader to take advantage of the potential \$1 billion national market for growing, producing, processing and selling industrial hemp and industrial hemp products; and

Whereas, To this end, in 2016, the General Assembly and Governor of the Commonwealth enacted Act 92 of 2016, which established Chapter 7 of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes and authorized an industrial hemp research pilot program to commence the initial research into such potential opportunities; and

Whereas, In the fall of 2018, the Congress of the United States is poised to pass the language from the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, as contained in the 2018 Farm Bill, which removes industrial hemp from the Schedule I

Controlled Substance List and legalizes commercial industrial hemp production in the United States; and

Whereas, The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth is encouraged to immediately commence a study of this Commonwealth's industrial hemp pilot program and other industrial hemp pilot programs in other states and their regulations to recommend any draft statutory or draft regulatory language to the General Assembly to expedite the entry of this Commonwealth into the commercial industrial hemp market upon passage of the language from the Hemp Farming Act by the Congress of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to pass the language from the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, as contained in the Farm Bill of 2018, removing industrial hemp from the Schedule I Controlled Substance List and legalizing commercial industrial hemp production in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth to begin a study of the industrial hemp research pilot programs established under Act 92 of 2016 and similar research pilot programs in other states and their regulations to prepare any recommended draft legislation for submission to the General Assembly and a framework for any draft regulatory provisions that incorporate the following:

(1) The growth and cultivation of industrial hemp produced in compliance with Federal law is an agricultural crop.

(2) The producers of industrial hemp within the Commonwealth have access to United States-supported seed, germplasm, rooted cuttings and other genetics.

(3) All industrial hemp products, including genetics, that are produced in this Commonwealth shall be able to be freely shipped across State lines into and out of this Commonwealth.

(4) The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth prepares a process for institutions of higher education in this Commonwealth to obtain approval to conduct industrial hemp research that complies with existing law and is eligible for Federal grant funding.

(5) The Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth prepares educational programs and materials for the education of youth and the public on the growth, cultivation and market potential for industrial hemp; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Secretary of Agriculture of the Commonwealth, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 744. A resolution recognizing May 3, 2018, as the 30th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer established under the Act entitled "An act to provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is cele-

brated", approved May 5, 1988, which was signed by President Ronald Reagan on May 5, 1988; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. Res. 745. A resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement, the 100th anniversary of the return of the Unknown Soldier, and the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SASSE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CORKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PERDUE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 746. A resolution calling for a prompt multinational freedom of navigation operation in the Black Sea and urging the cancellation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BURR, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 747. A resolution recognizing the opening of the nonsectarian Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., the only museum of its size and scope in the world devoted exclusively to the Bible; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 744—RECOGNIZING MAY 3, 2018, AS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SETTING ASIDE THE FIRST THURSDAY IN MAY AS THE DATE ON WHICH THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS CELEBRATED", APPROVED MAY 5, 1988, WHICH WAS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ON MAY 5, 1988

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 744

Whereas section 119 of title 36, United States Code, states that, "The President shall issue each year a proclamation design-

ating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.";

Whereas May 3, 2018, marks the 30th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer established under the Act entitled "An Act to provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is celebrated", approved May 5, 1988 (Public Law 100-307; 102 Stat. 456) (referred to in this preamble as "Public Law 100-307"), which was signed by President Ronald Reagan on May 5, 1988, and later codified as section 119 of title 36, United States Code;

Whereas, as Senator Jesse Helms stated on the day the vehicle that would become Public Law 100-307 passed the Senate—

(1) "Designating the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer allows the people of the United States to plan and prepare to intercede as a corporate body on behalf of the Nation and its leaders from year to year with certainty."; and

(2) "[T]he magnitude of America's problems, within and without the country, evidence a need for divine healing and guidance.";

Whereas, as Representative Tony Hall stated on the day the vehicle that would become Public Law 100-307 passed the House of Representatives, "This will help to bring more certainty to the scheduling of events related to the National Day of Prayer, and permit more effective long-range planning. For the past 7 years, the day has been observed in May, but before this period it was observed at different times of the year. Clarifying legislation is needed to ensure consistent and dependable observance of the National Day of Prayer.";

Whereas the United States has a long history of turning to prayer both in times of crisis and in times of thanksgiving, as demonstrated on the following occasions:

(1) President Barack Obama stated in Presidential Proclamation No. 9441 of May 4, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 27983), "In times of steady calm and extraordinary change alike, Americans of all walks of life have long turned to prayer to seek refuge, demonstrate gratitude, and discover peace. Sustaining us through great uncertainty and moments of sorrow, prayer allows us an outlet for introspection, and for expressing our hopes, desires, and fears. It offers strength in the face of hardship, and redemption when we falter. Our country was founded on the idea of religious freedom, and we have long upheld the belief that how we pray and whether we pray are matters reserved for an individual's own conscience. On National Day of Prayer, we rededicate ourselves to extending this freedom to all people.";

(2) President Donald Trump stated in Presidential Proclamation No. 9634 of September 1, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 42439), "I urge Americans of all faiths and religious traditions and backgrounds to offer prayers today for all those harmed by Hurricane Harvey, including people who have lost family members or been injured, those who have lost homes or other property, and our first responders, law enforcement officers, military personnel, and medical professionals leading the response and recovery efforts. Each of us, in our own way, may call upon our God for strength and comfort during this difficult time. I call on all Americans and houses of worship throughout the Nation to join in one voice of prayer, as we seek to uplift one another and assist those suffering from the consequences of this terrible storm.".

(3) On September 5, 2017, in response to Hurricane Harvey, Minority Leader of the Senate Chuck Schumer said on the floor of

the Senate, "Right now, large parts of the fourth largest city in our country remain underwater. I extend my most heartfelt sympathies to the people of Houston and to those across parts of Texas and Louisiana who are just beginning a long road to recovery from Hurricane Harvey. Having lived through Hurricane Sandy in my home State of New York, I remember the agonies of families who lost their homes, lost their businesses, and, particularly in the first month, had a sense of helplessness about what had happened to them. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in Houston."

(4) On June 14, 2017, after the shooting in Alexandria, Virginia—

(A) Senator James Lankford said in a prayer on the floor of the Senate, "[A]s I have walked through the hallways heading back and forth to different meetings, I have been interested to see many doors that I have walked by, and when those doors were open, I could hear people inside praying. There have been at least three organized prayer meetings on the Hill today, specifically related just to that, and others spontaneously occurring. Just for a moment we have the opportunity to be able to reflect and say to God: Thank You so much for protecting the people on that field. Thank you again to the Capitol Police, who literally put their lives on the line to protect the guests and the Members and staff here every single day . . . I would like to be able to join what is happening all over this Hill for just a moment in this room—for us to be able to pray for a moment . . .";

(B) Minority Leader of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi said on the floor of the House of Representatives, "You may not know this, my colleagues, but every time I pray, which is very frequently, and certainly every Sunday, I pray for all of you, all of you together. In the earlier years, I used to pray for your happiness, for the fact that we would, working together, heed the words of President Kennedy in the closing of his inaugural address when he said: ' . . . God's work must truly be our own.' How do we view what God's will is for us? How do we come together to give confidence to the American people? As our Founders intended, we would have our disagreements and we would debate them, and we would have confidence in our beliefs and humility to listen to others. But in more recent years, I have been praying not only for that, but for our safety . . . My prayer is that we can resolve our differences in a way that furthers the preamble to the Constitution, takes us closer to 'e pluribus unum.' And today, again, it is in the family. It is an injury in the family for the staff and for our colleague and for his leadership."; and

(C) Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan said on the floor of the House of Representatives, "My colleagues, there are so many memories from this day that we will want to forget, and there are so many images that we will not want to see again. But there is one image in particular that this House should keep, and that is a photo I saw this morning of our Democratic colleagues gathered in prayer this morning after hearing the news . . . So before this House returns to its business, let's just slow down and reflect to think about how we are all being tested right now, because we are being tested right now. I ask each of you to join me to resolve to come together, to lift each other up, and to show the country, to show the world, that we are one House, the people's House, united in our humanity. It is that humanity which will win the day, and it always will. God bless."

(5) On September 28, 2017, Representative Steve Scalise, marking his return to the House of Representatives after being shot on

a baseball field in Alexandria, Virginia, said on the floor of House of Representatives, "[W]hen I was laying out on that ball field, the first thing I did once I was down and couldn't move anymore is I just started to pray. And I'll tell you it gave me an unbelievable sense of calm knowing that at that point it was in God's hands. But I prayed for very specific things, and I will tell you pretty much every one of those prayers was answered, and they were some pretty challenging prayers I was putting in God's hands. He really did deliver for me and my family. And it just gives you that renewed faith and understanding that the power of prayer is something that you just cannot underestimate.";

(6) On October 2, 2017, after the shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada, Majority Leader of the Senate Mitch McConnell said on the floor of the Senate, "The news we awoke to this morning was heartbreaking. What happened in Las Vegas is shocking, it is tragic, and for those affected and their families, it is devastating. It is hard to even imagine their pain. I hope they will know that we are praying for them now. I hope they will find strength in the love and kindness of those around them in these hours of such darkness and pain. I hope they will see that our country is standing by their side today.";

Whereas the act of prayer is both an expression of religious belief and an act of speech that is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the National Day of Prayer— (1) is consistent with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) belongs to all people in the United States; and

(3) "is very much in keeping with the pluralistic spirit of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. No single religious group can claim ownership or control of the National Day of Prayer; rather, it truly belongs to all Americans who seek divine guidance for themselves and for the country," as Representative Mervyn Dymally noted on the day the vehicle that would become Public Law 100-307 passed the House of Representatives;

Whereas calling for prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving creates a sense of unity in the United States, and, as President Ronald Reagan noted in a radio address in 1982, "[P]rayer is one of the few things in this world that hurts no one and sustains the spirit of millions."; and

Whereas declaring a National Day of Prayer sets the United States apart as a country, and, as Representative William Danemeyer noted on the day the vehicle that would become Public Law 100-307 passed the House of Representatives, "A Nation in prayer has traditionally given this great Republic of ours the efficacy required to sustain it. A National Day of Prayer should be more than a mere commemorative occasion, it should be the spiritual sustenance that sets America apart from the rest of the world, the difference between freedom under God or slavery under the rule of men."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 30th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer established under the Act entitled "An Act to provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is celebrated", approved May 5, 1988 (Public Law 100-307; 102 Stat. 456), which was signed by President Ronald Reagan on May 5, 1988, and later codified as section 119 of title 36, United States Code;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to reaffirm the importance prayer has

played in the heritage of the United States; and

(3) expresses support for the continued recognition each year of—

(A) the National Day of Prayer; and

(B) the importance that prayer and faith have played in the history of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 745—COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Mr. COTTON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 745

Whereas, on April 2, 1917, President Thomas Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to convene an extraordinary session to officially declare war on the Imperial German Government;

Whereas, on April 4, 1917, the Senate passed a joint resolution that declared a formal state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government;

Whereas, on April 6, 1917, the House of Representatives adopted the same joint resolution that the Senate had passed, thereby marking the official entry of the United States into World War I;

Whereas more than four million American men and women served in uniform during World War I;

Whereas 116,516 Americans died from combat and disease and another 200,000 were wounded;

Whereas the Armistice Agreement to end World War I was signed in Paris, France, on November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m.;

Whereas, on February 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American soldier from World War I in the plaza of the new Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, on Memorial Day 1921, four unknown soldiers were exhumed from four World War I American cemeteries in France and United States Army Sergeant Edward F. Younger, who was wounded in combat, highly decorated for valor, and received the Distinguished Service Medal in "The Great War, the war to end all wars", selected the Unknown Soldier of World War I from four identical caskets at the city hall in Chalons-sur-Marne, France, on October 24, 1921, by placing a spray of white roses on the third casket from the left;

Whereas, on October 25, 1921, the casket bearing the unknown soldier was placed on the USS Olympia for transport back to the United States and the French Minister of Pensions presented the Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, that country's highest military award, to the Unknown Soldier;

Whereas the USS Olympia reached the mouth of the Potomac on November 7, 1921, and on November 9, 1921, joined by the USS North Dakota (BB-29) and the USS Bernadou (DD-153), she stood up the channel to the Nation's Capital, exchanging salutes from Fort Washington and Mount Vernon during her passage;

Whereas the USS Olympia moored at the Washington Navy Yard on November 9, 1921, and was welcomed by District of Columbia Brigadier General Harry H. Bandholtz, USA, who commanded the Military District of Washington, and who led a welcoming entourage that included Secretary of War John W.

Weeks, Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, USA, Admiral Robert E. Coontz, CNO, and Major General John A. Lejeune, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps;

Whereas the USS Olympia fired a 21-gun salute, buglers on board sounded attention, and the boatswain piped the Unknown Soldier over the side, the ship's band playing the "Funeral March", followed by the national anthem;

Whereas the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's band played "Onward Christian Soldiers" as the procession, escorted by cavalry troopers, made its way toward the United States Capitol and additional ceremonies, culminating in interring the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 1921; and

Whereas, since 1948, soldiers from 3rd United States Infantry Regiment headquartered at Fort Myer, Virginia, have stood guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice Treaty;

(2) expresses gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Armed Forces who participated in World War I operations;

(3) honors the memory of the fallen heroes who wore the uniforms of the Armed Forces during World War I;

(4) commends the crew of the USS Olympia for their role in transporting the unknown soldier home to the United States; and

(5) commends the soldiers from the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment for standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every day for 70 years, regardless of weather conditions be they rain, sleet, or snow.

SENATE RESOLUTION 746—CALLING FOR A PROMPT MULTINATIONAL FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OPERATION IN THE BLACK SEA AND URGING THE CANCELLATION OF THE NORD STREAM 2 PIPELINE

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SASSE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CORKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PERDUE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 746

Whereas, in late February 2014, the Russian Federation invaded and illegally occupied

Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, in full contravention of the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, which condemn the threat or use of force as means of altering international borders;

Whereas the Russian Federation's attempted illegal annexation of Crimea is also a direct violation of its pledges as a signatory to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and existing borders and to refrain from the threat or use of force against Ukraine;

Whereas the inclusion of the United States and the United Kingdom as signatories to the Budapest Memorandum was essential in order to provide Ukraine the security assurances needed to give up its nuclear arsenal;

Whereas, on November 25, 2018, military forces of the Russian Federation attacked and seized three Ukrainian Navy vessels and their crews as they attempted to transit the Kerch Strait between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation still has not released the Ukrainian crew members or returned the Ukrainian ships that were seized illegally;

Whereas European Commissioner Julian King stated that the Government of the Russian Federation launched a disinformation campaign over a year ago designed to paint Ukraine and NATO as provocateurs in the Kerch Strait;

Whereas, as part of the Russian Federation disinformation campaign, Russian state media outlets spread demonstrable falsehoods, including claims that Ukraine was dredging the Kerch Strait seabed to facilitate the stationing of a NATO fleet, that Ukraine had intentionally infected the sea with cholera, and that Ukrainian and British clandestine services were conspiring to destroy the Kerch Strait bridge with a nuclear weapon;

Whereas the United States has important national interests in the Black Sea region, including the security of three NATO littoral states, the promotion of European energy market diversification by ensuring unfettered European access to energy exporters in the Caucasus and central Asia, and combating use of the region by smugglers as a conduit for trafficking in persons, narcotics, and arms;

Whereas the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is a proposed underwater natural gas pipeline project that would provide an additional 55,000,000,000 cubic meters of pipeline capacity from the Russian Federation to the Federal Republic of Germany through the Baltic Sea;

Whereas the Russian Federation's state-owned oil and gas company, Gazprom, is the sole shareholder of the Nord Stream 2 project;

Whereas, in 2017, there was spare capacity of approximately 55,000,000,000 cubic meters in the Ukrainian gas transit system;

Whereas Gazprom cut off natural gas exports to Europe via Ukraine in 2006, and again in 2009, over supply and pricing disputes with Ukraine's state-owned oil and gas company, Naftogaz;

Whereas transit of Russian natural gas to Europe via Ukraine declined precipitously after the completion of Nord Stream 1 in 2011, falling from 80 percent to between 40 and 50 percent of Russia's total exports to Europe;

Whereas, in 2017, Russian gas accounted for 37 percent of Europe's natural gas imports, an increase of 5 percent over 2016;

Whereas, on December 12, 2018, the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning both the Russian Federation's aggression in the Kerch Strait

and the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline; and

Whereas, on December 11, 2018, the United States House of Representatives passed a resolution calling upon the European Union to reject the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and urging the President to use all available means to promote energy policies in Europe that reduce European reliance on Russian energy exports: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the President to work with United States allies to promptly lead a robust multinational freedom of navigation operation in the Black Sea to help demonstrate support for internationally recognized borders, bilateral agreements, and safe passage through the Kerch Strait and Sea of Azov and to push back against excessive Russian Federation claims of sovereignty;

(2) calls upon the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enhance allied maritime presence and capabilities, including maritime domain awareness and coastal defense in the Black Sea in order to support Freedom of Navigation Operations and allied interests;

(3) urges the President to use the authority provided under section 1234 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 131 Stat. 1659) to enhance the capability of the Ukrainian military;

(4) urges the President, through the Departments of State and Defense, to provide additional security assistance to Ukraine, especially to strengthen Ukraine's maritime capabilities, in order to improve deterrence and defense against further Russian aggression;

(5) reiterates that the President is required by statute to impose mandatory sanctions on the Russian Federation under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44);

(6) stresses that sanctions against the Russian Federation are a direct result of the actions of the Government of the Russian Federation and will continue and increase until there is an appropriate change in Russian behavior;

(7) calls upon United States allies and partners in Europe to deny Russian Navy vessels access to their ports to resupply and refuel;

(8) notes the resolution passed by the House of Representatives on December 11, 2018, calling on European governments to cancel the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and urging the President to support European energy security through a policy of reducing reliance on the Russian Federation;

(9) applauds and concurs with the European Parliament's December 12, 2018, resolution condemning Russian aggression in the Kerch Strait and the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, calling for the pipeline's cancellation due to its threat to European energy security, and calling on the Russian Federation to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Kerch Strait; and

(10) urges the President to continue working with Congress and our allies to ensure the appropriate policies to deter the Russian Federation from further aggression.

SENATE RESOLUTION 747—RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE NONSECTARIAN MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THE ONLY MUSEUM OF ITS SIZE AND SCOPE IN THE WORLD DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE BIBLE

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, Mr.

ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BURR, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 747

Whereas the Bible has played a prominent role in the culture of the United States and has been a significant influence throughout the history of our nation;

Whereas, in 1956, Congress passed a Joint Resolution adopting "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States;

Whereas, in 1982, Congress passed the Joint Resolution entitled "Joint Resolution authorizing and requesting the President to proclaim 1983 as the 'Year of the Bible'" (Public Law 97-280), finding that the Bible "has made a unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and blessed nation and people";

Whereas, on November 17, 2017, the Museum of the Bible opened a 430,000 square foot nonprofit museum in Washington, D.C., 3 blocks from the Capitol, and will be free to all visitors;

Whereas the Museum of the Bible is a nonsectarian institution that does not promote any faith or denomination;

Whereas, in 2014, the architectural concept submission for the Museum of the Bible was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, the local Washington, D.C., Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and the Historic Preservation Review Board, and the primary building of the Museum of the Bible was awarded historical status by the Historic Preservation Review Board;

Whereas the Museum of the Bible will have 3 primary exhibit floors focused on the history, narrative, and impact of the Bible;

Whereas the entrance to the Museum of the Bible will feature 2 40-foot-tall bronze panels that contain the first lines of Genesis in Latin, as originally printed in the Gutenberg Bible, and art glass panels featuring a papyrus containing the 19th psalm; and

Whereas the Museum of the Bible is an innovative, global, nonsectarian educational institution the purpose of which is to permit all people to engage with the Bible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate. That Congress—

(1) recognizes the opening of the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., the first nonsectarian museum of its kind in the capital of the United States focused exclusively on the history, narrative, and impact of the Bible; and

(2) commends the leadership, staff, scholars, designers, construction workers, and volunteers who worked tirelessly to realize the goal of opening a museum, free to the public, with the nonsectarian purpose of "inviting all people to engage with the Bible".

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only with no business being conducted on Thursday, January 3, at 11:50 a.m. and that the Senate adjourn until it next convenes at 12 noon on Thursday, January 3, pursuant to the Constitution; further, that following the prayer and pledge and following the presentation of the certificates of election and the swearing in of elected Members and the required live quorum, the morning hour be deemed expired,

the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019, AT 11:50 A.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:40 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 3, 2019, at 11:50 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REAR ADM. (LH) MATTHEW T. BELL, JR. AND ENDING WITH REAR ADM. (LH) ANTHONY J. VOGT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 17, 2018.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

BRIAN T. MORAN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROBERT S. BREWER, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MATTHEW J. SCHNEIDER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

NICHOLAS A. TRUTANICH, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JOHN C. MILHISER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID L. ANDERSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

LAWRENCE KEEFE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

AARON L. WEISMAN, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

DENNY WADE KING, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

TODD L. NUKES, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MICHAEL S. YEAGER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MARK B. SHEPHERD, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JOHN M. GARRISON, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

DANIEL B. MAFFEI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2022.

L. E. SOLA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2023.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

JOHNATHAN BRAGG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2019.

JOHNATHAN BRAGG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2024.

THOMAS JAYNE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2023.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

ALEXANDRA DAPOLITO DUNN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate January 2, 2019:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

BRENDAN CARR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2018.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

PATRICK FUCHS, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

GEOFFREY ADAM STARKS, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DANIEL SIMMONS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ELLEN E. MCCARTHY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH).

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MARTIN J. OBERMAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2023.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARY BRIDGET NEUMAYR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

TERI L. DONALDSON, OF TEXAS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

THE JUDICIARY

CARMEN GUERRICAGOTIA MCLEAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KELVIN DROEGEMEIER, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOEL SZABAT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

RAE OLIVER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JAMES W. CARROLL, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TAMARA BONZANTO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (OFFICE

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 2018, I experienced technical difficulties with the electronic voting machine on the House floor, and my vote for S. 3628, the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act, was not recorded. My intention was to vote yea for roll call No. 500.

date growing membership. The move has allowed Rev. Thompson to further expand services, which now include Back to School Festivals and clothing donation distribution.

Rev. Thompson has accomplished so much for his congregants and for the entire northeast Bronx community as a whole. This year, Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle World is celebrating his 38th Pastoral Anniversary. On this wonderful occasion, I want to congratulate Rev. Thompson and thank him for the wonderful work he and his ministries continue to do.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness, I regret that I was unable to make votes from December 19, 2018 to December 21, 2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 446, Roll Call No. 463, Roll Call No. 467, Roll Call No. 468, Roll Call No. 469, Roll Call No. 470, Roll Call No. 472, Roll Call No. 494, Roll Call No. 497, and Roll Call No. 498.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 436, Roll Call No. 437, Roll Call No. 438, Roll Call No. 439, Roll Call No. 440, Roll Call No. 441, Roll Call No. 442, Roll Call No. 443, Roll Call No. 444, Roll Call No. 445, Roll Call No. 447, Roll Call No. 448, Roll Call No. 449, Roll Call No. 450, Roll Call No. 451, Roll Call No. 452, Roll Call No. 453, Roll Call No. 454, Roll Call No. 455, Roll Call No. 456, Roll Call No. 457, Roll Call No. 458, Roll Call No. 459, Roll Call No. 460, Roll Call No. 461, Roll Call No. 462, Roll Call No. 464, Roll Call No. 465, Roll Call No. 466, Roll Call No. 471, Roll Call No. 473, Roll Call No. 474, Roll Call No. 475, Roll Call No. 476, Roll Call No. 477, Roll Call No. 478, Roll Call No. 479, Roll Call No. 480, Roll Call No. 481, Roll Call No. 482, Roll Call No. 483, Roll Call No. 484, Roll Call No. 485, Roll Call No. 486, Roll Call No. 487, Roll Call No. 488, Roll Call No. 489, Roll Call No. 490, Roll Call No. 491, Roll Call No. 492, Roll Call No. 493, Roll Call No. 495, Roll Call No. 496, Roll Call No. 499, and Roll Call No. 500.

artist, activist, family man, and small business owner, Mr. Braun passed away in October 2018. I join my neighbors in recognizing the tremendous gifts he gave to our community.

Born in Lake City, Minnesota, Mr. Braun was always an artistic and passionate person. After getting his degree in theater from Lawrence University, Mr. Braun taught theater at Lea College, Ekerd College, and Normandale Community College. He inspired countless young adults through his commitment to fun and daring productions before he left academia to run Wild Rumpus in Minneapolis in 1988.

Consistently recognized as one of the most inventive bookstores nationwide, Wild Rumpus is symbolic of the type of person Mr. Braun was—open and inviting, passionate about having fun, and always up for trying something new and mischievous. Under his devoted management, the store garnered national awards, including being named Bookstore of the Year by Publisher's Weekly in 2017. As described in his obituary, 'One never really "worked for" Tom. Rather, you became a co-conspirator in his sense of mischief and philosophy of "why not?"'

But Mr. Braun was passionate not only about light-hearted ventures. He founded Linden Hills Power & Light, an organization that fights for climate action on the grassroots level. They were a key constituency pushing for citywide door-to-door compost collection, spearheading the first pilot program with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. Mr. Braun's drive to model the world he wanted to see through his own choices and actions was a driving force for some of our most important city-wide sustainability efforts.

Though Mr. Braun is no longer with us, the impact he has made on our community will be visible for years to come. I am grateful that he gave us so much of his energy and vision, and that he created lasting organizations that will continue to model his commitment to being a good person, doing right by his neighbors, and fighting for a better world. I thank Mr. Braun for all that he has given to Minnesota.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 21, I was not present due to the death of my brother two days prior. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 495, 496, 499, and 500. I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 485, 494, 497, and 498.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. THOMAS CHARLES BRAUN

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent and neighbor, Mr. Thomas Charles Braun. A beloved

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a dear friend who has made such a remarkable impact in our community for more than 40 years, Reverend Dr. Keith Elijah Thompson of Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle Word of Faith Ministries.

Many have referred to Rev. Thompson as the "Man in the Community" due to his four decades of service to the northeast Bronx. After a successful career as an entrepreneur, he answered the call from God and entered full-time ministry in 1980. From the inception of the ministry, Rev. Thompson integrated a holistic approach, giving special attention to the Tripartite nature of human beings to establish communication beyond the confines of church. Starting out as a simple storefront, Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle World grew by leaps and bounds. In 1993 the Church moved locations to accommodate the growing congregation. Now located on Burke Avenue, the church began to expand further into the community through a series of outreach programs including GED and college prep courses, in addition to Missions and radio outreach.

Rev. Thompson was also instrumental in spearheading several other high-profile community initiatives and groups, including the Clergy Coalition of the 47th Precinct and the White Plains Road/Burke Avenue Merchant Association. He also served as Dean of El Shaddai Christian School, Vice President of the 49th Precinct Clergy Council, member of the 47th Precinct Community Council, and has been active with Bronx Community Board 12 and the Williamsbridge and Bronx branches of the NAACP. As Chancellor of the Bronx Resource Community Center, which he helped form, Rev. Thompson oversaw a facility that provided high school equivalency diplomas, job training, and basic computer training to the community.

In October 2014 Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle World moved once again to accommo-

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING TARYN DUFFY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our community here in New York's 16th Congressional District is very fortunate to have Taryn Duffy, a friend who this year is being honored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians for all her outstanding work. I want to take a moment to recognize her on the occasion.

Taryn has extensive experience within the New York State public policy arena, as well as public relations and communications. As Vice President of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs for Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway, Taryn oversees public relations and external affairs. She is also principal of TSD Strategies, Inc., a public relations and communications firm founded in 2014.

As a former Vice President at Mercury Public Affairs, a national public strategy firm, Taryn put her experience to work for clients in a variety of industries. She has worked on dozens of political campaigns and briefly departed the political world to serve as Director of Admissions of Mercy College's Bronx Campus.

Recognized as an advocate for volunteer service and civic engagement, Taryn was a

recipient of City & State Magazine's Above and Beyond Award, a Bronx Chamber of Commerce Honoree for distinguished service, and honored as a Women of Influence by the Irish Voice.

Outside of her many professional accomplishments, Taryn is passionate about mentoring young women in their careers and served as a panelist for the Workforce Development Institute's "Women in Leadership: Securing a Seat at the Table" forum hosted by Senate Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and then-Assembly Member Shelley Mayer. She was also a panelist at City & State Magazine's "On Advocacy" conference to assist non-profit organizations in their advocacy efforts and has led campaign readiness trainings for women interested in running for political office.

Active in numerous civic and professional organizations, Taryn serves on a variety of boards including United Way of Westchester & Putnam Counties, Business Council of Westchester, ArtsWestchester, Yonkers Workforce Development Board, the Yonkers Mayor's Women's Advisory Council, Bronx Advisory Council for Visions Services for the Blind, Yonkers Career & Technical Education Advisory Council, and Bronxville Terrace Owners Corporation. She is also a member of The Public Relations Society of America.

Taryn Duffy has accomplished a great deal and has made some tremendous contributions

to the community. AOH picked a most deserving honoree. Congratulations to Taryn.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8051–S8063

Measures Introduced: Four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. Res. 744–747. **Page S8059**

House Messages:

Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act: Senate resumed consideration of the House Message to accompany H.R. 695, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and taking action on the following motion proposed thereto: **Page S8051**

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill.

Page S8051

Pro Forma Session—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at 11:50 a.m., and that Senate adjourn until it next convenes at 12 noon, on Thursday, January 3, 2019, pursuant to the Constitution; and that Senate present the certificates of election, swear-in elected Members, and proceed to the required live quorum. **Page S8062**

Treaty Approved: The following treaty having passed through its various parliamentary stages, up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification, upon division, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification was agreed to:

U.N. Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade (Treaty Doc. 114–7) as amended. **Page S8052**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Gail S. Ennis, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Social Security Administration.

Carmen Guerricagoitia McLean, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Alex A. Beehler, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Brendan Carr, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2018.

Patrick Fuchs, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for the term of five years.

Bonnie Glick, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

James W. Carroll, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

Kim Gaffney, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Wisconsin for the term of four years.

Denny Wade King, of Tennessee, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

Kyle McCarter, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya.

Brian T. Moran, of Washington, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington for the term of four years.

Todd L. Nukes, of Indiana, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Casey Wardynski, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Geoffrey Adam Starks, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2017.

Teri L. Donaldson, of Texas, to be Inspector General of the Department of Energy.

Michael Kubayanda, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2020.

Michael S. Yeager, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Daniel Simmons, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).

Mary Bridget Neumayr, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Ellen E. McCarthy, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research).

Rae Oliver, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Robert S. Brewer, Jr., of California, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of California for the term of four years.

Bradley Jay LaRose, of Vermont, to be United States Marshal for the District of Vermont for the term of four years.

Matthew J. Schneider, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Mark B. Shepherd, of Mississippi, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

Alan Ray Shaffer, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

Michael T. Harvey, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

John M. Garrison, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Martin J. Oberman, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2023.

Nicholas A. Trutanich, of Nevada, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nevada for the term of four years.

Richard S. Tischner, of Virginia, to be Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia for a term of six years.

Donald L. Palmer, of Florida, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2021.

Steven Dillingham, of Virginia, to be Director of the Census for a term expiring December 31, 2021.

Tamara Bonzanto, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection).

Thomas F. Gilman, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Thomas F. Gilman, of Arizona, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce.

Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, to be Ambassador to Central African Republic.

Erhard R. Chorle, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2022.

James Paul Gfrerer, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

Kelvin Droegemeier, of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Joel Szabat, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

Donald Armin Blome, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia.

Craig Lewis Cloud, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana.

Judith Gail Garber, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus.

Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali.

Simon Henshaw, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea.

Michael S. Klecheski, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mongolia.

William H. Moser, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Michael Peter Pelletier, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros.

Richard Carlton Paschall III, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia.

Eric Williams Stromayer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic.

John C. Milhiser, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Matthew John Matthews, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

Eric George Nelson, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

David L. Anderson, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of California for the term of four years.

Lawrence Keefe, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dennis Walter Hearne, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique.

Earle D. Litzenberger, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Patricia Mahoney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin.

John Mark Pommersheim, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan.

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.

Sarah-Ann Lynch, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

Susan N. Stevenson, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

Christopher Paul Henzel, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Lynne M. Tracy, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia.

Benjamin Hovland, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2019.

Douglas J. Strike, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

Aaron L. Weisman, of Rhode Island, to be United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island for the term of four years.

Daniel B. Maffei, of New York, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2022.

L.E. Sola, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2023.

Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr., of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Johnathan Bragg, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2019.

Johnathan Bragg, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2024.

Thomas Jayne, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2023.

6 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral. **Pages S8052–56, S8062–63**

Messages from the House: **Pages S8051, S8057–58**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S8058**

Executive Communications: **Page S8058**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S8058–59**

Additional Statements: **Page S8057**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 4 p.m. and adjourned at 7:40 p.m., until 11:50 a.m. on Thursday, January 3, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8062.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R. 7400–7401 were introduced. **Page H10609**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H10609**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Activities of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 115th Congress (H. Rept. 115–1114);

Report on the Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Ways and Means During the 115th Congress (H. Rept. 115–1115);

H.R. 6741, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to increase monetary policy transparency and accountability and to make reforms to the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–1116, Part 1);

H.R. 4278, to ensure that the operations of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System remain independent from the credit policy of the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–1117);

H.R. 2128, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to permit private persons to compel the Securities and Exchange Commission to seek legal or equitable remedies in a civil action, instead of an administrative proceeding, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–1118);

H.R. 4247, to repeal title VIII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H. Rept. 115–1119);

Report of the Activities of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives During the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (H. Rept. 115–1120);

Committee on Appropriations House of Representatives Annual Report of Committee Activities 115th Congress (H. Rept. 115–1121);

Report of the Activity of the Committee on Financial Services of the United States House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (H. Rept. 115–1122);

Report of the Activities of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the 115th Congress (H. Rept. 115–1123);

Activities and Summary Report of the Committee on the Budget House of Representatives One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (H. Rept. 115–1124);

Committee on Ethics. Summary of Activities One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (H. Rept. 115–1125); and

Activity Report of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (H. Rept. 115–1126). **Pages H10608–09**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Upton to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H10607**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. **Page H10607**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Ms. Lujan Grisham, the whole number of the House is 432. **Page H10607**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:50 a.m., Thursday, January 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Thursday, January 3

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Ellison, Keith, Minn., E1743
 Engel, Eliot L., N.Y., E1743, E1744
 Posey, Bill, Fla., E1743
 Rosen, Jacky, Nev., E1743
 Shea-Porter, Carol, N.H., E1743



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