

this legislation, along with the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee to be, Senator RISCHE, and Senator GARDNER. It speaks directly to some critical American interests in that part of the world—our security cooperation with key partners, Israel and Jordan, and the ongoing humanitarian and security catastrophe of the Syrian civil war.

First, this legislation recognizes the growing threat Iran, Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terrorist groups pose to the State of Israel, and it aims to strengthen key elements of our relationship with our closest partner in the Middle East.

It affirms that the United States needs to “walk the walk,” and it authorizes military assistance, cooperative missile defense, as well as loan guarantees.

It encourages closer U.S.-Israel technological cooperation to better address 21st century threats, and it clearly states that it is official U.S. policy to help Israel preserve its qualitative military edge over those who might wish it harm.

The legislation also recognizes the security, economic, and humanitarian challenges the ongoing conflict in Syria poses to the people and Government of Jordan, and it reauthorizes important legislation aimed at deepening our defense cooperation with this important regional partner.

In addition, the bill contains a bipartisan provision from Senators Rubio and Manchin to combat the BDS movement, an aggressive and hostile attempt to delegitimize and economically boycott the State of Israel.

This legislation gives State and local governments across America more flexibility to limit their own business relationships with entities that support this horrible effort to hurt our ally. In effect, this provision allows jurisdictions to boycott the boycotters—let me say that again: “to boycott the boycotters”—and make sure they don’t send taxpayer dollars to companies that embrace this anti-Israel posture.

Now, with respect to the ongoing conflict in Syria, there are, certainly, differing views about the role of the U.S. military with respect to threats emanating from Syria. There is no question that we continue to face serious challenges from al-Qaida and ISIS in Syria, as well as from Iran, Russia, and the Assad regime itself, and I anticipate this body will debate U.S. military strategy toward Syria in the coming weeks, as it conducts oversight over the administration’s, apparently, ongoing review of its Syria policies.

Admittedly, there are no easy solutions in Syria. I hope the administration and Congress will be deliberate and sober as we consider the risks of various approaches to the endgame of the fight against the physical caliphate of ISIS. After all, American lives, critical national security interests, and the future of a turbulent yet critical region are all at stake. The debate is

forthcoming. I imagine it could be contentious.

There should be little debate, however, about the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which has overwhelming bipartisan support and the endorsement of the administration.

This bill, which is included in this package, speaks to the human tragedy of the Syrian civil war. It provides non-military tools for responding to the atrocities conducted by the regime of Bashar al-Assad. It will hold accountable those responsible for the torture and murder of countless Syrian civilians and provide more leverage for diplomats to end the conflict through peaceful negotiations that are consistent with the demands of U.N. Security Council Resolution 2254.

Unless the Syrian regime changes course, ends its brutality against the Syrian people, and negotiates a peaceful end to the civil war, the butchers of Damascus will find their key financial institutions and industries sanctioned by the United States.

This bill will not bring back the hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have been murdered or tortured by the regime, but it will be another arrow in the quiver of diplomats who are seeking to end this awful war and stabilize a region of critical importance to the United States and its allies. So I am proud to cosponsor the package of legislation that Senator RUBIO introduced yesterday.

I am clearing the way for the bill, S. 1, to be debated and voted on here on the Senate floor as early as next week, and I look forward to voting to pass this important bill.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

#### REMEMBERING CHARLES LIN

• Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is an honor to remember the selfless and inspirational life of Sifu Charles Lin.

A lifetime master, Sifu Lin began studying the martial arts in his homeland of Taiwan.

He studied under many masters of the martial arts, earning the title “Master” or Sifu.

Sifu Lin moved to New Mexico in 1974 at the age of 23, with only \$200 in his pocket.

For more than 40 years, Sifu Lin taught New Mexicans meditation and self-defense through the martial arts of Ch’i Kung, Tai Chi, and Chuan Kung Fu at Lin’s Martial Arts Academy.

He and his wife also ran the Chinese Culture Center in Albuquerque, a place for the city’s Chinese population to build community, learn Chinese language, and celebrate their culture.

The fireworks, martial arts demonstrations, and dancing dragons in the center’s annual Chinese New Year festival put Chinese culture on display.

My thoughts are with his family during this time of mourning.

The lessons Sifu Lin imparted on all of his students will not be forgotten. ●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 21. An act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 1. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1. A bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 21. A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

S. 24. A bill to provide for compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 21. An act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

S. 28. A bill to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and for other purposes.

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

H.J. Res. 1. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first