

That is why I introduced a bipartisan amendment with Senator TOOMEY, which calls for a clear, publicly articulated strategy that will guide the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Syria. Critically, our amendment also makes clear that the United States must protect the Syrian Democratic Forces from attacks by Turkey, which is more focused on destroying the Syrian Kurds than defeating ISIS.

Finally, this legislation does not acknowledge the obvious: We have a reckless President who undermines our security daily. We have a President who conducts foreign policy by tweet and champions the views of brutal dictators, like Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, above that of his own top intelligence officials. We have a President who has compromised American credibility; allies and adversaries alike cannot trust if his grand pronouncements will translate into action or if they will just as quickly be reversed. More than any President before him, President Trump has shirked America's founding principles and our values as a nation. Until Republicans in the Congress acknowledge that obvious point, our ability to preserve American leadership abroad will be greatly compromised.

For all of these reasons, I voted against S. 1.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, while the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act is clearly far from perfect, the majority of the legislation addresses several key priorities that are particularly important to me: formalizing long-term security aid to Israel, supporting our Jordanian allies' fight against the Islamic State, and sanctioning the Syrian financial system over the Assad regime's human rights abuses.

These provisions represent important measures to concretely support our allies and address serious national security concerns. The legislation as a whole also preserves Obama administration international agreements that promote regional security while providing the Trump administration with more tools to levy sanctions against human rights abusers in the Assad regime in Syria.

I also strongly oppose the BDS movement. However, I have long had concerns about the Combating BDS Act and similar legislation, which could be interpreted to change longstanding U.S. policy towards Israeli settlement activity and could have negative implications on domestic freedom of speech protections. Those concerns are rightly being litigated in Federal court. This bill does not protect a state or local BDS law from being challenged in court by an individual on constitutional grounds.

While this was among the more difficult votes I have taken, ultimately the national security and other benefits of the entirety of this legislation could not be ignored or passed up.

#### REMEMBERING CHARLES S. KETTLES

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a Michigan veteran whose bravery, spirit of service, and selfless dedication to his fellow soldiers earned him the Nation's highest military honor and the eternal gratitude of 44 American families.

Charles S. Kettles was Michigan through and through. He was born in Ypsilanti in 1930, and that is where he passed away on January 21, 2019, a couple of weeks after his 89th birthday.

He attended Edison Institute High School in Dearborn and fell in love with flying in the school's flight simulator. Perhaps it was no surprise; his father served as a military pilot during both World Wars.

Charlie was active in the community. He and his brother opened a Ford dealership in DeWitt. He later earned a master's degree in industrial technology from Eastern Michigan University and launched its aviation program. He served on the Ypsilanti City Council and in the local Kiwanis club. He was close to his family and enjoyed his nine grandchildren.

In many ways, Charlie lived an ordinary Michigan life. What made his life truly extraordinary were events that happened far away from Ypsilanti on the other side of the world.

Charlie was drafted into the Army in 1951, attended Army aviation school, and served tours in Japan and Thailand. He retired from Active Duty in 1956, and that could have been the end of his military service, but the Army was in desperate need of helicopter pilots during the Vietnam war. So in 1963, Charlie volunteered for active duty and learned to fly the UH-1D "Huey."

Those skills would save lives on May 15, 1967, when then-Major Kettles volunteered to lead a flight of six Hueys on a rescue mission when members of the 101st Airborne Division were ambushed by enemy troops.

The helicopters came under fire, but that didn't stop Charlie. He kept on flying. When he returned to base after his second rescue flight, his helicopter was leaking fuel, and his gunner had been severely wounded.

Then the call came in: 44 Americans still needed to be evacuated. Charlie found a Huey that wasn't leaking fuel, led a flight of six evacuation helicopters back to the landing zone, and successfully rescued the stranded men—or so he thought.

On the flight back to base, Charlie learned that eight troops had been unable to reach the evacuation helicopters. He didn't hesitate. With no regard for his own safety, he turned his Huey around and returned to the landing zone.

His helicopter was hit by gunfire, and a mortar round damaged the rotor blade and shattered the windshield. Despite the damage, Charlie skillfully navigated his helicopter to the landing zone. The remaining troops scrambled

aboard, and all 44 finally made it off the battlefield.

Charlie was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest citation for valor, in 1968; yet when I heard his story, I thought, if anyone was ever worthy of receiving the Medal of Honor, Charlie was.

Typically, the Medal of Honor must be awarded within 5 years of the heroic act. That is why, in 2015, I introduced legislation with Senator GARY PETERS and Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL to allow Charlie to receive the Medal of Honor. In 2016, that is just what happened.

"In a lot of ways, Chuck is America," President Obama said during his Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House. "To the dozens of American soldiers that he saved in Vietnam half a century ago, Chuck is the reason that they lived and came home and had children and grandchildren. Entire family trees—made possible by the actions of this one man."

Charlie remained humble about his award.

"Out of all of that, there is really only one thing that means anything—those 40 names are not on the wall in D.C. Awards are nice, but there is far more gratitude in simply knowing that."

Charlie Kettles was a real-life hero and the very best of Michigan. The people of my State and the families of the 44 men he saved will remain forever grateful for his service and sacrifice.

Thank you.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF AUBURN, MAINE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the town of Auburn, ME, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. Auburn might be a small city, but it features something for everyone, from recreation activities and parks and trails to cultural opportunities, a variety of restaurants, shopping, and public and private school options. Located along the banks of the Androscoggin River, Auburn is home to over 23,000 residents and is the county seat of Androscoggin County.

Auburn was first incorporated on February 22, 1869, and was created by annexing parts of the surrounding towns of Poland, Minot, and Danville, previously called Pejepscoot. Auburn was the first city in Maine to adopt a council-manager form of government and grew into one of Maine's largest municipalities. In the early to mid-1800s, a new bridge across the Androscoggin River to Lewiston and the arrival of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad helped spur development in Auburn. Like many Maine towns, Auburn developed into a mill town, and many of those mills were powered by the falls on the Androscoggin and Little Androscoggin

Rivers. Auburn was also the home to a number of other manufacturing plants, including shoes, cotton and woolen textiles, carriages, bricks, and furniture. The population of the city grew quickly through the end of the 1800s, mostly due to the influx of French-Canadian immigrants coming to the city to work at the shoe factories.

By the late 19th century, shoe manufacturing became the dominant industry in Auburn. In fact, the city seal depicts a spindle with different types of shoes at each outside point. In 1917, one factory in Auburn was producing 75 percent of the world's supply of white canvas shoes. Like many manufacturing towns, Auburn has had to reinvent itself in recent years, and they have shown their resiliency and grit. Today, Auburn is as vibrant as ever.

The city of Auburn has contributed to the energy, vitality, and commerce of the State of Maine and is poised to make the next 150 years some of the best years in its long and cherished history. I hope that the citizens of Auburn take the opportunity during this year-long birthday celebration to reconnect to their roots, share their life stories, and remind current and future generations about the rich past and the bright future ahead of us all. Happy 150th birthday, Auburn, and congratulations to all the citizens of this great Maine community.●

#### REMEMBERING HAYNES SECURITY SERVICES, INC.

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, it is my privilege to highlight a Florida small business that displays the unique entrepreneurial spirit found across my home State of Florida. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies ingenuity, hard work, and dedication to improving their community. Today, it is my distinct privilege to honor Haynes Security Services, Inc., of Miami, FL, as the Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2011, Haynes Security Services has grown from a small firm focused on security consulting, to a full-service security company with 35 employees and more than \$600,000 in annual revenues. It has done so in the heart of Liberty City, which has a long, proud, yet complicated, history. In recent years, Liberty City has been characterized as a community that suffers with poverty, schools that have struggled, majority single-parent households, and a declining workforce. However, history tells us that this a community that not that long ago was thriving with entrepreneurs, economic opportunity, and strong families. I think those virtues, those values, and those ambitions still remain in the heart in the soul of the people who live in Liberty City.

On February 1, 2019, I held a committee field hearing in Liberty City to have an in-depth discussion with com-

munity advocates about ways that small business policies and collaboration between Federal and city agencies can encourage economic growth and upward mobility in our more vulnerable communities. We discussed how, together, we can support an upward mobility that honors the men, women, and children who live in that community and to provide jobs in the community that support safe and affordable housing options. Small businesses are rooted in their communities, and when an owner of that business also grew up in that community, they are going to hire local citizens, and they are going to support local partnerships and organizations.

It is at the hearing that I learned of Edward "Ed" Haynes. Haynes Security Services is a shining example of what is possible in Liberty City and communities just like it. After spending 6 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, Ed joined the Miami Shores Police Department, becoming the organization's first African-American police officer. In the early 1990s, Ed's background and expertise led him into the private security industry where he consulted before founding Haynes Security Services in 2011. Combined, Ed has more than 30 years of security experience under his belt.

As Ed's company has grown from just 1 employee to 30 officers, he ensured that it remains family-owned and operated and rooted in the Liberty City community. He relies on his wife Adriene, who is the chief financial officer, and his daughters, Chakara, who provides human resources support, and Candyce, who is in charge of the company's marketing. Ed noted the incredible responsibility in providing for 30 families, including those of his own daughters.

Today, Haynes Security Services provides a wide range of security services, including investigations, security consultations, executive protection, and electronic security solutions. Recently, the company took on larger contracts to provide security for the Miami-Dade Metrorail, large real estate development companies, as well as major events in Miami. In addition to these services, Haynes Security Services also provides private security licensing and certification training as required by the State of Florida.

In 2017, Ed and his team were named the Veteran-Owned Business of the Year by both the Small Business Administration South Florida District Office and the State of Florida. Throughout the company's history, Haynes Security Services has worked closely with the Florida Small Business Development Center, SBDC, at Florida International University. This partnership has given Ed and his team the strategic assistance and knowledge they need to pursue major contracts and secure access to capital. Ed credits the practical know-how and dedication of the SBDC consultants with much of the recent success that Haynes Security Services has experienced.

Ed's unique experience and success in the Miami community has given him a platform to give back to his neighborhood. Beginning with his time in the Marine Corps, Ed has remained committed to serving others. Today, he continues this service by mentoring young people and through motivational speaking, where he uses his story to encourage people to reach their full potential.

Companies like Haynes Security Services are a great example of the success that is possible with vision, hard work, and quality service. It is also a testament to the impact that locally owned and operated small businesses, who hire people from the community and are committed to the families who live there, can have on places like Liberty City. I would like to congratulate Ed, Adriene, Chakara, Candyce, and all of the employees at Haynes Security Services on being named Small Business of the Week. I wish you the best of luck as you grow your business and stay active in your community.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Chair.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 340. A bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: