The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. Torres of California).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, September 11, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Norma J. Torres to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

AND STILL I RISE

The Speaker pro tempore. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Green) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Green of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise on this 9/11, a day that will live in the annals of history eternally. A day when there were more questions than answers, a day when we thought that our country was—and, indeed, what we thought was correct—under assault.

I remember the day because I was at work, and as the judge of a small claims justice court, we were so moved by what was happening that we paused to sing God Bless America. I remember at least one person sobbing. It was a day when people within that courtroom were faced with uncertainties unlike we had seen before. And when all of our first responders were challenged. But allow me, please, for just a moment, to talk and say a few words about those who were there at the site of the Twin Towers.

We could see on television the cloud of dust as it started to emerge and settle, people rushing, bodies covered. It was intuitively obvious to the most casual observer that this was not a place to run to. As a matter of fact, you could see people running away.

But there were those who took their duties and responsibilities seriously, and as others were rushing away, as fear would have us do, they were rushing in. These were the people, many of whom lost their lives trying to save the lives of others. These were the people, many of whom still suffer today because they were bound by duty to do that which most of us would not.

There are the people whom we must never forget. Their lives have been changed and altered forever. But we have a duty and a responsibility here to share our thoughts and our feelings with them, but also to make sure we take care of their health issues.

There is something to be said about this term, “in the line of duty.” Until you have had the opportunity to visit one of the memorial services, you just may not impact you as it can. It will never impact me the way it impacts the family members.

But I want this country to know that those who lost their lives in the line of duty on that day will never be forgotten, and those who served and still serve will always be remembered.

So I take this moment for my personal privilege, and I will lower my head for a moment of silent prayer.

God bless the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The Speaker pro tempore. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Thompson) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the 18th anniversary of September 11, 2001, to reflect on the events of that fateful day and to honor the lives lost and the heroes that united us.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 roared over Lower Manhattan and into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Shortly after, Flight 175 struck Tower 2.

Our country was under attack. Many of us could never imagine such evil taking place in our own backyard.

The terror did not stop in New York City. The Pentagon, center of our Armed Forces and national defense and our Nation’s Capital, was also a target of evil. Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon at 9:38 a.m. It was a turning point in our history and changed the way we would view the world forever.

The fourth plane hijacked that day was United 93, crashing into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Here in the Capitol, as you exit the north side of the rotunda, a plaque displays the names of the 40 passengers and crew of United 93.

One of those aboard was Flight Attendant Sandra Bradshaw. Sandra had always wanted to be a flight attendant and was living out that dream, traveling and meeting new people.

At 9:30 a.m. on 9/11, she called her husband and told him that United 93 had been hijacked. She said the crew and passengers had decided to try to take back the plane. Their sacrifice saved countless lives, and I can’t help but think they may have saved this very building where we sit today from destruction.

Our country’s fight against terrorism did not happen on a battlefield on the...
other side of the world but over the skies of Pennsylvania, New York, and Virginia by ordinary American citizens.

The courage and bravery of Flight 93 was not the only heroism on display that day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders jumped into action without hesitation. When planes crashed, they ran in. When fires ignited, they ran in. When buildings collapsed, they ran in. Their courage never wavered.

We can never forget the lives lost and must always remember the heroism that was shown. And while we cannot bring our loved ones back, we can honor their memory through acts of service.

To maintain the spirit of unity and compassion that stemmed from the attacks, every year our country proclaims September 11 as Patriot Day. It is a great way to honor the souls we lost and pay tribute to all who sacrificed their lives.

As President Bush said when he addressed the Nation: “Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These attacks shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.”

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, is one of those days when everyone of age can remember where they were and what they were doing when the first plane hit.

I was a police commander assigned to the Orlando International Airport. It appeared to be a normal day, and then the calls unfolded. The planes hit. The towers collapsed. The Pentagon burned. The passengers of Flight 93 mounted their heroic resistance.

It appeared time stood still as the world watched the results and the actions of the hijackers, evil men who set out to attack America, to kill Americans. But they could never have killed the idea of America. You see, that idea belongs to us. It will endure as long as we continue to believe in it, to perfect it, and to make it worth fighting for.

2,977 lives. 343 firefighters, 23 New York police officers, and 37 Port Authority officers—they took much from us that day.

As a mother, I think of the roughly 100 babies who will turn 18 this year having never known their fathers.

Today, I remember the passengers and crew. I remember the first responders who rushed into fire and smoke, dust and rubble in a desperate fight to save whomever they could; who worked for weeks, breathing deadly particles, trying to find survivors, or at least identify the dead; heroes who died that day or from illnesses contracted from the search, rescue, recovery; heroes who died as they lived, in service to others, who believed in service above self. These men and women didn’t just save lives; they defined what it means to be a hero for a generation.

On the day of the worst terrorist attack on America soil, our first responders showed us the best of us. I am relieved that, earlier this year, Congress passed lifetime funding for the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund.

Yes, evil took much from us that day; but the heart and soul of America, the courage and tenacity, the ability to endure and to stand no enemy can take away from us.

The work of caring for those individuals who answered the call that day must go on; just as our work will go on to secure our Nation, to ensure that we will never again suffer the injury we did on that morning.

But today, on September 11, we pause from that work to remember and to honor the victims and to acknowledge the service of 9/11 is not just something to be memorialized, but to be emulated, to put service above self. May we stand united and serve in the people’s House with courage, devotion, gallantry, compassion, and grace.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, 18 years ago, America experienced the worst act of terrorism in its history. Nearly 3,000 people were killed, with many others in emergency services and law enforcement suffering long-lasting health complications, sometimes resulting in death.

September 11, 2001, a day none of us will ever forget, had a deep and lasting impact on the lives of all Americans. I was one of the thousands who answered the call to serve and to hunt down those responsible.

When I woke up on that tragic day, I was serving in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho with the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing, 34th Bomb Squadron—the B-1 bombers. I was and am a proud Mountain Home Gunfighter. Our squadron deployed almost immediately as the on-call wing. By early October, I and my brothers and sisters in arms were mission planning the first bombing runs into Afghanistan.

I still remember the morning of September 11. Memories come to my mind as vividly as if they were yesterday: buttoning the buttons on my uniform when my wife yelled at me up the stairs that the plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York; a phone call seconds later that I, in no uncertain terms, needed to get my butt into the squadron to brief my commander on the situation and start loading Conexes; working through the night while the base was in lockdown and much of the country was in a fog; trying to answer questions from my young daughter, wife, and friends about what was happening.

You are seeing my daughter, here, as I came home from deployment.

My memories are not unique, and every American has a different viewpoint on what happened that day. Some lost friends or family, and the tragedy was as overwhelming as it felt that day should not be forgotten.

But the impact of those attacks was not limited to that day, and history will write that heroic Americans responded with valor and bravery.

One of the most heinous acts ever committed on American soil did not bring us down but brought us together. In the words of former President George W. Bush: “One of the worst days in America’s history saw some of the bravest acts in America’s history.”

Less than 24 hours after the first plane hit the towers in New York, deployment orders came. I still remember that feeling, standing on the tarmac and then watching from the plane as my three daughters, all younger than 10 years old, waved small American flags from down below. I was deployed on Active Duty and would be spending the next weeks planning bombing runs on Afghanistan to respond to these attacks.

Our Armed Forces are asked to make sacrifices; leaving their families is often one of them. But after 9/11, when so many Americans had sacrificed so much more, my brothers and sisters in arms were willing to make that sacrifice. Inspired by the heroism of so many firefighters, first responders, law enforcement, and citizens who answered the call, we knew that America would emerge stronger.

Eighteen years later, we remember the heroes of 9/11, how they died, their sacrifice, and admire their patriotism. Their memories will last for us forever because we will never forget what they gave us, heroic Americans who answered the call.

I was proud to serve with heroes like General Seve Wilson, Bull, Bullet, Eli, Scar, Jimbo, Rooster, Mongo, IROC, Stainless, Lost, Krenkle, Freight, Sergeant Lowery, Migo, Psycho, Sassy, Tank, Rachel, Linda Vudnais, Ateeberry, and so many more. From Ground Zero in New York to the Pentagon and across the country, American heroes answered the call, and we are forever in their debt.

God bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.
Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 18th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack to honor the nearly 3,000 individuals, brave men and women who lost their lives. Most Americans remember where they were during the attack—whether there have been few times in our Nation’s history that we have faced such an atrocity. And the effects are still being felt today.

But instead of shrinking in the shadow of such adversity, we rose to the challenge as one community, to stand together to do one thing. We became a Nation of one. But it also has changed our Nation and the world that we live in today forever, the way we work, the way we view our security.

This past July, I was pleased that the House and Senate with the President came together to reauthorize the 9/11 Victim’s Compensation Fund for police and firefighters, first responders who answered the call after the attack in New York and Washington, D.C. These heroic men and women deserve all the help we can give them, and we must never forget. September 11, 2001. We must remember 18 years ago today when we were all one as Americans. We need that more today than ever before.

HONORING DAVID HUERTA

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, in my home State in the San Joaquin Valley we recently lost a wonderful individual, a leader whose work I would like to honor today. Fresno State Police Chief David Huerta. David was loved by all. He passed away in mid-August after serving honorably in that position for 15 years.

A lifelong resident of Fresno County, Chief Huerta dedicated his life to serving his community by teaching and providing public safety as a police officer. During his career he was recognized as Officer of the Year. And Fresno State President Joseph Castro said David served with integrity, even in the most challenging of situations.

David will be greatly missed by his wife Cynthia, his four children and three grandchildren. It is with great respect that I ask my colleagues today to join in honoring Police Chief David Huerta.

RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO AND UC MERCED

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the recent achievements of two outstanding universities in my district, California State University, Fresno and UC Merced University of California.

According to the U.S. News and World Report’s 2020 Best College rankings, Fresno State University, my alma mater, ranked number three in graduation rate performance for public universities. UC Merced made the biggest leap of all on the college list. They ranked number one in the Nation for student outcomes, including number one in outperforming expected graduation rates.

Both of these universities currently have over 70 percent of their student body who are the first in their family ever to attend a university. These universities are doing what a higher education should be doing for all Americans. Go Bulldogs. Go Bobcats.

CONGRESS MUST ACT ON GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to rise today Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL to keep his word and act on gun safety legislation.

Every day it seems that there is coverage of another shooting on the news. Americans are just frustrated. Since the Congress has had their district work period in July there have been four high-profile shootings in this country. Those shootings resulted in the death of 51 Americans and over 90 that were injured. The threat to public safety today is simply unacceptable in our country.

In February, the House passed two key gun violence pieces of legislation. It has been nearly over 200 days since we passed these bills, but nothing has been done in the Senate. Despite the countless Americans who have lost their lives in these senseless shootings, including children, Leader McCONNELL has refused to bring these up for debate. We should be doing our work and trying to provide gun safety for all Americans.

After the shootings in Dayton and El Paso, the American public has demanded action. The overwhelming majority of Americans want us to take commonsense action to provide better public safety. Leader McCONNELL said he would be doing just that. I think it is time that we hold him to his word.

This Congress must act. The President should take the leadership, ensuring we can do everything we can to protect Americans throughout our land.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the nearly 3,000 people who were killed on this day in 2001. At dawn, September 11, 2001, was a morning like every other, that is until everything changed. Terrorists, who were intent on destroying our country and our way of life, succeeded.

But through this tragedy we saw our country unite. We saw unmatched courage and bravery from our first responders, servicemembers, and everyday citizens. Now, 18 years later, we find ourselves with a new generation that did not experience the horrors of that day. They only know a post-9/11 world. That makes it all the more important that we teach them what happened that day, honor the victims, and discuss the impact those terrorist attacks have had.

But today, we remember. Today, we pray. Today, we honor Americans of every background who, in the aftermath of that fateful day, united under our flag, bound together by a sense of unflappable courage, duty, and patriotism.

HONORING SCOTT KIMBRIEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Scott Kimbriel, who died on August 12 after a year-long struggle with prostate cancer.

I met Scott sometime before kindergarten and we stayed close for almost 60 years. He used to come over and work on our farm while we grew up, and over many decades our friendship remained strong as we moved across the country.

At his core, Scott was a gifted entrepreneur and businessman. He was able to learn from his mistakes and relentlessly marched forward. He was a giver, able to exercise so much compassion with absolutely no strings attached because it was simply the right thing to do for his friends. I was better off for having known Scott.

In 2019 the American Cancer Society estimates over 174,000 people will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Over 31,000 of those diagnosed will die from the disease. I, myself, am a cancer survivor.

Right now the National Cancer Institute, which is located in my district is working on prevention, detection, and treatment of prostate and other cancers. But we are leaving so much on the table. We need to invest more in research. We need to invest more in innovative solutions that could save lives like Scott’s.

In Congress we must be determined and unified to eradicate cancer and eliminate the heartache that it brings so many families across our great country.

Scott Kimbriel was a special person, and it hurts knowing I can no longer pick up the phone and hear Scott’s ever cheerful voice answer, “JT.” But instead of looking in the rearview mirror, Scott would want us to look out the front window thinking about how we could support those in the future who might suffer from this horrible disease.

I know I am committed to this fight, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, on this day nearly 20 years ago our great Nation suffered a loss unlike any she has suffered before or since. Almost 3,000 American citizens were killed on September 11, 2001, and thousands more have died or become seriously ill since from their response that day, whether
at Ground Zero or in the Middle East. Men and women, young and old were stolen from their families, their communities, and our country.

As she always has during our darkest hour, this country came together in a courageous way to make peace on the blood of those who died for it. Each and every one of us unite to heal a terrible wound. May we all strive today to soon find that same unity—now, not just in times of tragedy. Americans and her people will be all the better for it.

May God bless the memories of those who died on September 11, and may God bless this great country.

STIRRING TO MAKE KANSAS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, last week I completed my tour of all 105 counties in Kansas. I enjoyed meeting folks of all backgrounds and learning about their passions, concerns and what they need their representatives in Washington to do to deliver for Kansas. From Topeka, I flew to Leavenworth, the message I heard from Kansans is they want their way of life preserved. They want their representatives to fight alongside President Trump, reduce Washington red tape, and advocate for new and fair trade agreements so our farmers can feed the world.

For the most part, Kansans just want a decent job with a good wage and a fair shot at the American Dream. Aside from the safety and security afforded to them, most would be happy to not have Washington involved in our day-to-day lives.

Despite folks’ disagreements on some issues, Kansans are a people who largely agree on the importance of faith, community, and hard work.

After completing this tour of all 105 Kansas counties, I have a greater appreciation for the challenges of Kansans of all walks of life. Each conversation was an opportunity to hear an individual story about the burden of securing affordable healthcare for a loved one, finding good workers to grow a small farm or business, finding a home to raise their family in, and protecting and nurturing the communities they love and cherish.

I don’t have all the answers or quick fixes for our challenges, but I will continue to strive to make Kansas a better place to live. Each day I am blessed with the opportunity to represent Kansas in Congress, I carry that message in my heart, that we are the breadbasket of the world and home to some of the best, hardest working and most decent people on Earth.

AMERICANS MUST REJECT A RADICAL SOCIALIST AGENDA

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, last week a socialist senator seeking higher office proposed increasing abortions across the world as a way to slow population growth and combat climate change. Wondering why, he directly stated that he wants U.S. taxpayers to pay for these abortions. As many Kansans are coming to understand, this is just one of the many disgraceful and disturbing socialist agendas increasingly embraced by my colleagues across the aisle.

There is no policy proposal at present which more represents the Democrats’ quest for total control over every aspect of our lives than the Green New Deal. The party’s environmental agenda was relabeled to sound less like a rebranding of overwhelming government control under the guise of environmental stewardship. Just ask its sponsor’s former chief of staff who said, “It wasn’t originally a climate thing at all, we basically think of it as a how to change the entire economy thing.”

The Green New Deal demands we completely overhaul our energy and transportation infrastructure, which would kill the jobs of millions of Americans working in the oil, gas industries, manufacturing, and aviation industries, to name a few. The plan would crush Kansas beef producers by placing a hefty tax on our farms with estimates costing nearly $2,000 per cow. The Green New Deal could be the greatest centralization of power in the hands of Washington elites in American history.

But destroying America’s means of energy and food production isn’t all this radical socialist agenda seeks to do; as we learned recently, the new Democrat party’s to-do list includes everything from banning private health insurance to plastic straws nationwide, positions numerous Democratic candidates for President have already endorsed.

Democrats want to dictate what you can drink, how you drink it, what you can eat, and where you can work, and what healthcare you can have, all while you are forced to pay for abortions overseas. And don’t forget about the proposed 90 percent tax rates on Americans either.

We must emphatically reject this radical socialist agenda and work instead to implement innovative solutions to provide for greater prosperity and equity for our children and grandchildren’s future and the future of Kansas and this great Nation depend on it.

MAKE HOMEOWNERSHIP EQUALLY AVAILABLE TO ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Rush) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address how racially discriminatory housing policy has contributed to the unjust racial wealth gap in our Nation.

Currently, Madam Speaker, 72 percent of White households own their own homes, while just 41 percent of Black households do. The roots of this disparity can be traced to the discriminatory housing policies implemented by the Federal Housing Authority, which resulted in only 2 percent of federally backed loans being issued to African Americans between 1934 and 1968. This was a supra-classic form of kinematic, organic, and institutional racism.

The ongoing ramifications of this most insidious example of discrimination continue to be felt acutely by people like many of my constituents. A recent study by Dartmouth University found that the systemic denial of federally guaranteed loans led to the widespread use of predatory home sale contracts in Chicago’s Black communities.

These contracts, Madam Speaker, led to situations where home buyers paid, on average, over $71,000 more—I repeat, Madam Speaker, over $71,000—for their homes than White homeowners who had unfettered access to federally backed loans.

In total, Madam Speaker, redlining, the practice of rating predominantly Black neighborhoods as “high risk” for traditional mortgage lenders, stole $3.2 million—this is by conservative estimates, $3.2 million—stole up to $3.2 million from Chicago’s Black families.

This is just one example of how homeownership, a pillar of the American Dream, has been placed out of reach of far too many Americans due solely to the color of their skin. It is incumbent, Madam Speaker, upon all of us to make this American Dream equally available to all, regardless of their skin color and regardless of their ZIP Code.

Fortunately, Madam Speaker, there are steps that this Congress can take to support Black American homeownership. For example, as the Urban Institute notes, factoring rental payment history into credit-scoring models could increase financial opportunities for Black home buyers.

Passing the Home Loan Quality Transparency Act, a bill I am proud to cosponsor, will restore a critical provision of Dodd-Frank, requiring mortgage lenders to report crucial details about their borrowers, including credit scores, racial and ethnic breakdowns, and other data.

Madam Speaker, $3.2 million stolen.

RESTORE TRUTH AND COMPASSION TO IMMIGRATION DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. Stutzzi) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about immigration in America.

My father was born in Italy. He came to the United States as a young boy. I am a first-generation American, and I don’t like the hateful and divisive rhetoric often used about immigrants today. I am appalled at the way my country is treating the children and families of immigrants.

My dad came to America in the early 1920s. He was the first of his neighborhood to graduate from college. During World War II, he served as an navigator on a B-24 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oakleaf clusters. He returned home and
As a young, Harvard-educated lawyer and Italian immigrant, however, my dad couldn’t find a job. Italians were not respected, and after Hitler teamed up with Mussolini during the war, Italian Americans were not trusted, either.

My dad decided to return to Glen Cove, where he teamed up with another Italian lawyer, ran for city court judge, and became the youngest judge in the history of New York State.

My father achieved many other great successes, and he would always say, “What a country.” His life was the very essence of the American Dream. Our American Dream, however, is at risk. It may soon be the American nightmare.

Well, I still believe in my father’s American Dream, and I am committed to keeping it alive.

Immigration has been an issue for decades, yet after all these years, Congress has yet to pass immigration reform.

President Trump’s cruel, divisive, and simply unworkable positions have made things worse. His policies and rhetoric exacerbated the problem, permeating a culture of fear that forces many immigrants further into the shadows.

I have been an advocate for fair and reasonable immigration policies for more than 25 years. As mayor of my hometown of Glen Cove, New York, in 1994, I created the first shape-up center on the East Coast of the United States of America. It gave newcomers from Central and South America a safe place to get hired and made sure they got paid for the work they did. If they didn’t get hired, they could stay and learn English or new job skills.

As county executive, in 2007, I refused to let ICE work with my Nassau County Police Department because ICE was acting like cowboys, drawing guns and knocking down doors, intimidating children and families who were not even subject to their raids and all of who together presented no risk of violence whatsoever.

Today, those same guys who gathered on the street corners of Glen Cove now own their own businesses and own their own homes, and their kids attended school with my kids.

But now, President Trump’s heartless immigration actions are separating parents from their children, and children are being housed in cages.

I have seen it with my own eyes. This past July, I traveled to McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, to personally inspect the detention and relief centers, visit points of entry, speak with immigrant families, and meet with humanitarian aid organizations. My visit to the detention centers along our southern border was heartbreaking. I saw men, women, and children being held in awful conditions.

Our system is broken. These centers are overcrowded, unsanitary, and clearly ill-equipped to care for people in great numbers.

Meanwhile, the administration continues to promulgate more callous and mean-spirited decisions aimed at further attacking immigrants. Deporting children with cancer and diverting funding to build the wall, including money that was meant to go toward building schools for military families, and keeping immigrant children locked in indefinite detention are unconscionable.

These decisions endorsed by this administration are not consistent with American values. America is founded on the fundamental principle that “all men and women are created equal.” It is not that everyone with a green card or U.S. citizenship is created equal; it is that every man and woman is created equal and should be treated with human respect and dignity.

We must continue holding congressional hearings on forced family separation; the detention of children for prolonged periods of time; the decision to end TPS and DACA, the Dreamer plan; and the overwhelming backlog in U.S. immigration courts.

We must also defend hate, as my friends at Bend the Arc are advocating, and set a floor for refugee admissions at 95,000, as my friends at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society are advocating.

In addition to defunding the hateful policies of this administration, we must also strive for comprehensive immigration reform that treats people like human beings, lives up to the American Dream, gives a path of citizenship for TPS recipients and Dreamers, gives protection to millions of others, and secures our borders.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, “When we tolerate what we know to be wrong, when we close our eyes and ears to the corrupt because we are too busy or too frightened, when we fail to speak up and speak out, we strike a blow against freedom and decency and justice.”

We need to restore truth and compassion to the debate over immigration in America, and we need to do it now, because the promise of the American Dream demands it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. LEVIN of California 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.

ANNUCMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

The CHAIRMAN of the House. After debate, the Speaker pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, how familiar this day is.

As a Member of the United States Congress who was in this building on 9/11, it was a bright and shiny day in New York and Washington, D.C. as we fled this building, saw the billowing smoke and knew that the other towers had already fallen by someone telling us something had happened. Hearing rumors that planes were flying into the White House and the State Department, we wondered about the resilience and the freedom of this Nation.

How grateful I am to stand here, 18 years later, to remind Americans and those who were not yet born that that was a day that should be reminding us every day of the greatness of our freedom, the value of our democracy, and the power of our people.

We honor those who fell, those families who still do not know of their missing loved ones, those who went to war, those who have come back.

But most of all, this day is to remind us of the wonderment of the representation of this Nation, the diverse Nation that it is, people from all walks of life, that whatever we have to overcome, whatever divisiveness we may see yesterday, today, or tomorrow, it will never—it will never—undermine the greatness of this country.

I will always, as one who was here, I will always remember and I will never forget. And I honor those whose lives were lost, pray for their families, but there are no injured, or very few.

It is sickening to think of the men and women, the children and families in New York and Washington, D.C. as we fled this building, saw the billowing smoke and knew that the other towers had already fallen by someone telling us something had happened. Hearing rumors that planes were flying into the White House and the State Department, we wondered about the resilience and the freedom of this Nation.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER THE 11TH IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the 18th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, Patriot Day, we remember Islamic extremist terrorists hijacked passenger jets to murder nearly 3,000 innocent Americans in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

It is sickening to think of the men and women and children who were slaughtered. Our remembrance promotes the legacy of those who were mercifully murdered.

I am humbed and inspired by the strength and resilience, just as my colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, of our country when we stand together to remember this mutual tragedy. Today, I remember the response of our Government and how the immediate response, “Let’s roll.”

This summer, I visited the sites of Islamic extremist attacks in Buenos Aires, Argentina, of 1994 and in Mumbai, India, of 2008. The brave people of America, Argentina, and India are prepared to stand together to resist further mass murder.

On this day, we honor the lives of those affected by the attack. It is also a day to salute our military who served to protect our freedom and to deny Islamic extremists a safe haven in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE GRANDVIEW BEACH BLUFF COLLAPSE

(Mr. LEVIN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize an unimaginable tragedy that occurred in my district last month.

On August 2, three women from the same family died when a coastal bluff at Grandview Beach in Encinitas collapsed on top of them: Julie Davis, Annie Clave, and Elizabeth Charles. They were enjoying a day at the beach with family and friends celebrating Elizabeth’s triumph over breast cancer. Suddenly, all three were lost.

There is a lot that I would like to say about the government’s responsibility to help prevent similar tragedies in the future, but, instead, I want to use this moment to recognize the extraordinary life that all three of these women brought into this world.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Pat Davis, who lost his wife, one of his daughters, and his sister-in-law on that day. Today, Dr. Davis is committed to ensuring that no one else experiences the same kind of loss that he has. He has called for action from local, State, and Federal officials to prevent future bluff collapses, and to stand together in these efforts.

He is truly an inspiration. Please take a moment to think of Julie, Annie, and Elizabeth. May they rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is home to many gun owners. Growing up, my family owned guns for hunting. It was part of how we fed our family. Thus, I don’t want to infringe on Second Amendment rights of Americans.

I do, however, want to stop the killing of innocent lives because someone was at risk to themselves or others who bought or accessed a firearm. Too many loopholes allow people to purchase, procure, or access a firearm.

Many Texans have already died in mass shootings—so this is very personal to me—most recently, of course, in west Texas.

The House has already passed two bills that would prevent mass shootings. Last night, three more bills were marked up and will be ready for a floor vote.

Senate Republicans must allow a vote on gun control legislation. I am tired of people being killed because they won’t act. I end by asking them, Mr. Speaker: What will you do to save lives? What are you afraid of?

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on this day, it is with great sadness that I rise to remember this day and pray for them tomorrow, and it is for those in harm’s way who I continue to serve across the globe to ensure that we can live safely in the greatest country in the world: the United States of America.

Never forget, and may God bless America.

In God we trust.
I now have a flag hanging in my office with 2,977 names of those who perished that day. Two of those names were my friends.

September 11, now known as Patriot Day, brought us together and unified our Nation in defiance of terrorism and evil. We must come together and never forget that we are all Americans and that we, here, represent the greatest country on Earth.

**RECOGNIZING ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK**

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Arts in Education Week. As children return to school from their summer vacations, I am reminded that true education must go beyond language and math. It must include daily access to creative subjects like dance, poetry, visual arts, and theater.

Ninety-three percent of Americans agree: The arts are a vital part of a well-rounded education, and when schools make the investment, we see ripple effects across students’ lives. A student involved in the arts is four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement; they are three times more likely to win an award for school attendance, and are elected to class office more than three times as often as their peers.

We must do more to ensure every child can regularly access arts education. In the most recent appropriations bill passed by this Chamber, we included a $6 million increase to support Arts in Education at the Department of Education.

I am proud to work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to support this program and will push to preserve a strong increase in any final spending bill.

**LET’S PUT PARTISAN POLITICS ASIDE**

(Mr. BANKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 12 months since we reached a new agreement with Mexico and Canada. Both Mexico and Canada promptly ratified the agreement, but the House majority party refuses to let us vote on it.

While it is a multinational agreement, the benefits will be felt greatly in my home State of Indiana. Forty-seven percent of Indiana’s exports go to Mexico and Canada, generating $18 billion in revenue for the Hoosier State. American workers need this. Hoosier workers need this.

Speaker PELOSI, please, let’s put partisan politics aside and do what is best for Indiana, for our country, and for all of North America. It is time to find the courage to bring this trade deal to the floor for a vote.

**REMEMBERING 9/11**

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11, 2001, and the courage of the first responders who ran into danger are forever etched in our minds and our hearts. Nearly 3,000 people were killed, thousands more were injured, and for many who were at Ground Zero, their pain and suffering endure.

This year we finally made the 9/11 Victim's Compensation Fund permanent so that we can always take care of our first responders, volunteers, and their families. We learned many lessons on that day. Lessons in sacrifice, sorrow, and bravery, as well as lessons in national security preparedness and foreign policy.

As we pause today to remember the victims and all those who were impacted by the attacks, let us also remember the lessons and maintain constant vigilance in our shared national commitment to never forget.

**AMERICA WILL NEVER FORGET 9/11**

(Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, never forget. In 2001 on 9/11, 2,977 peaceful people were murdered by 19 jihadi terrorists who were recruited by, plotted with, and were directed by al-Qaida to commit evil acts of war against the United States of America.

America is the greatest Nation to ever exist. We must never waiver in our resolve to defend our way of life. As the world tragically learned on 9/11, terrorists should never be ignored or given sanctuary to plan, prepare, or launch their evil acts. As Scripture says, there is a time for war. Following 9/11 was such a time.

Sadly, America’s focus has long since expanded from finding and eliminating terrorists and those who give them sanctuary. Great nations don’t fight endless wars. If we are truly to make America great again, we must be laser focused. America does not negotiate with terrorists or those who give them sanctuary. There is no substitute for victory.

**WHEN WILL AMERICANS LEARN**

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 141, H.R. 1146, and H.R. 205, three bills which will prevent oil and gas leasing on our Outer Continental Shelf, in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and near Florida’s Gulf Coast.

In 1969, America suffered a disastrous oil spill off Santa Barbara. Two decades later, Exxon Valdez devastated Prince William Sound. In 2010, Deepwater Horizon ravaged the Gulf of Mexico.

When will we learn? How much more of our coastline will have to be ruined? How many more local economies will be shattered? How many more lives will be lost?

Republican and Democratic officials oppose the administration’s expanded drilling plans. They know the health, environmental, and economic costs of oil spills and that those accidents occur thousands of times each year. There is no reason to take such risks, especially when we have cleaner, safer ways of producing the energy we need.

I applaud Representatives CUNNINGHAM, HUFFMAN, and ROONEY for offering this legislation to protect our planet and in the spirit of Pennsylvania’s Constitution, which guarantees the people the right to clean air, clean water, and the preservation of our natural aesthetic.

I urge Members to support these bills. And I, too, say God bless America this day and all days.
Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am a New York Representative whose district is about 10 miles from the World Trade Center, and I lost many friends and constituents in that horrendous attack.

Many years ago, President Roosevelt stood right here in this Chamber and talked about a day of infamy regarding the attack on Pearl Harbor. Certainly, also the day of these attacks was a day of infamy, September 11, 2001.

I remember days and weeks after the attacks you would just walk in my district and see burned papers sort of dropping from the clouds. It is really something that we will remember forever. We remember the brave responders. We remember the people that gave their lives so that others can live. It also told us that we in the United States have to continue to remember those poor 3,000 souls whose lives ended. It could have been any one of us. They lost their lives.

I think that this is a time for all Americans to pause and say we cherish our values. We remember the people who lost their lives, and we will always fight against oppression wherever it rears its ugly head. God bless America.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER KAREN BROWN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House, for minutes and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I arise today to recognize the National Security Agency police officer Ms. Karen Brown for being named the 2019 Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Honor Graduate of the Year. The most prestigious award for FLETC students, Ms. Brown excelled with high marks in academics, physical fitness, and firearms training.

Originally from Ohio, Ms. Brown has worked at the NSA for the last 15 years serving in a number of roles at the agency: personal security, polygraph examination, counterintelligence threat examination, and more.

We thank Ms. Brown for her service to our Nation. A ceremony was held at FLETC to reward her accomplishments on Tuesday, August 27.

In addition to Ms. Brown’s great work, I want to thank all of those students, recent graduates, and instructors at FLETC for their commitment to our Nation in bettering their workforce training. The Federal Law Enforcement Training Camp in Glynn County, Georgia, is an outstanding effort in getting their students the necessary skills to thrive in any situation they may face in the field.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Cicilline) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019.

Hon. Nancy Pelosi,

The Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(b) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 11, 2019, at 10:53 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1881. That the Senate passed S. 2035.

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

COASTAL AND MARINE ECONOMIES PROTECTION ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on H.R. 1941.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 548 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1941.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Cuellar) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1941, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, with Mr. Cuellar in the chair.

The Chair. The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from California (Mr. Lowenthal) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. Bishop) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The first question is, what do all governors, Republican and Democratic, along the entire East Coast and along the entire West Coast of the United States and over 300 municipalities and counties from these States all have in common? You know what they have in common? They are all opposed to expanding offshore oil and gas development off their shores.

Today we are here to ensure that these coasts, the Atlantic and the Pacific, receive the assurance and the protection that they deserve. H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act would permanently protect the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts from offshore oil and gas drilling. From Maine down to Florida, from Washington to California, nearly all of the United States’ coasts are threatened by the fossil fuel industry-driven agenda, which is driven by the Trump administration.

One of President Trump’s first actions upon taking office was mandating the development of a new and totally unnecessary 5-year plan for offshore oil and gas lease sales. In January 2018, former Interior Secretary Zinke released a draft of that plan, which proposed opening more than 90 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas development. This proposal included the entirety of America’s Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, and if enacted, drilling could endanger more than 720 million miles of U.S. shorelines.

Expectedly, there was immediate pushback from citizens, elected officials, governors, business leaders, all who understood that their coastal communities are incompatible with offshore oil and gas.

The public knows that bringing in industry as risky and as dirty as oil and gas to the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts is dangerous on many levels. Our oceans sustain a rich diversity of marine life, and they provide immense value to America’s coastal communities by helping to generate billions of dollars in economic output and by supporting millions of jobs.

For example, thriving fish stocks and healthy marine mammals off the coast of New Jersey, Maryland, and Florida support tackle shops, whale watching tours, and a massive seafood industry. And oil-free beaches and bays in Virginia and the Carolinas drive business for local restaurants, for vacation rentals, and for outfitters.

But coastal residents are not the only ones who will benefit from protecting these areas. Some of our Nation’s most majestic national parks are located along the coast, including Acadia, Biscayne, Cape Hatteras, and Point Reyes. People from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds and from both political parties cherish these special places, and they rely on healthy oceans, clean beaches, and the abundant fish and wildlife that come with them.

The inevitable spills and the variety of other onshore and offshore impacts from oil and gas drilling have no place along our East and West Coasts. Over one million people are employed by the tourism and recreation industries along the East Coast. These are real
None of these facts or the outcry from concerned citizens have influenced a Trump administration that is laser-focused on doing the bidding of the oil and gas industry. Instead of protecting our coastal communities, President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt have played politics and now are hiding their plan to drill near our communities.

In January 2018, immediately after the release of the draft leasing program by Zinke and then-Governor of Florida Rick Scott at the Tallahassee airport and tweeted that he was removing Florida from the leasing program. However, it turned out that this was nothing more than a ploy to boost the political prospects of a Republican Senate candidate.

First Florida was in, then it was out, then it was in again, and now nobody except Secretary Bernhardt and President Trump knows for sure.

For 2½ years, this administration has based its offshore drilling decisions on politics, not on the needs or the concerns of coastal communities.

In April, the administration announced that its offshore leasing plans are no longer on hold due to a recent court decision that is related to Alaska. But that is only a short-term reprieve. At any moment, the administration can restart its efforts to auction off our nation’s marine resources, which will undoubtedly happen if the President were to get a second term.

Coastal communities need assurance that their businesses, beaches, and way of life will not be sacrificed to the fossil fuel industry by the Trump administration.

H.R. 1941 provides our Atlantic and Pacific constituents, including those along Florida’s Atlantic Coast, the necessary protections from the dangers of offshore oil and gas, and it deserves this House’s full support.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, we are here on September 11. It is an anniversary of an event that has been impactful for all of us and has definitely changed our country. We cannot forget that. Hopefully, as a Nation, we can learn from that experience and from the dedication that people gave during and after that particular experience.

Mr. Chair, we are here in what the Democrats have called their energy week, to highlight their energy week proposals. Their proposals, or the three very disjointed bills not based on science but based on the idea of paying off specific political interest groups for political purposes.

Carl Weener, when he used to coach the Baltimore Orioles, loved to bait the umpires. One time, he went out to the umpire and said: Is this as good as it gets, or are you going to get better?

Of course, they threw him out of the game for saying that.

However, today, I want to turn to the Democrats and say: Guys, is this as good as it gets, or are you going to get better? Because what we have before us is not an energy policy, it is an energy non-policy.

When I was in college, gas was $0.25 a gallon. I remember driving my car into those gas stations, and there would be a kid who would be my age or younger coming out and filling up my tank, cleaning the windows, and checking the oil. There was no pump, you gave me either a plate or a towel for showing up.

I then went to Europe for 2 years, and when I came back, the oil embargo had hit. No one came out to help me. Everything we did was self-service. No one gave me any more towels or dishes. Gas prices in the embargo era were going up to the astounding almost $1.40 a gallon, which we could not believe.

Our new President at the time put on a sweater, started a fire in the fireplace, and came before the American people and told us, basically: Get used to it. Live with less. Take it as an honor to be cold in the dark. That is the process.

Fortunately, this country didn’t go along with that, nor did the industry go along with that. Instead of being a country in which we were dependent upon OPEC countries, 60 to 70 percent of our energy coming from OPEC—and I am sorry, that is not what an Irish chicken does; that is a cartel. That is a cartel that was very against the interests of the United States. Instead of being that which was in the position to be bullied not by a major power but a secondary power thinking they could extort this country into changing our foreign policy simply by exploiting our energy vulnerabilities, America changed, and instead, we decided that would not be our policy.

We came up with a process of not only expanding our energy production in the United States, but we expanded it in a way that produced energy more efficiently; that used it in a cleaner fashion; that used a smaller footprint to do it; that made us energy independent. To where we could be, instead of an importing country, an exporting country in the concept of energy; and that energy was used not only to support the United States’ independence but also to support our allies and be able to confront negative forces like Russia, which was using energy as a political weapon and still would like to use energy as a political weapon.

Now, we are faced with three bills here today, one much different than the other two. But the end result of the Democratic vision of energy presented to us in this energy week is basically to use the rearview mirror and take us back to the 1970s, where we go back to the time when our economy was fragile, and our enemies thought they could take advantage of our energy dependency, and they could do that to bully the United States.

That is not what the process should be in creating an energy future for this particular country.

Mr. Chair, we have three bills that will be before us today. None of them are scientifically grounded. All of them are essentially political proposals, to the point where creating an energy future for this administration doesn’t believe in science because these particular issues are politically motivated.

There is no logic to what we are doing. In our committee, it was wonderful how the Democratic on the Republican side would do this and say: Well, we are just going to do this for the purpose of showing that the other side had a non-policy.

I call this hypocrisy as well because there is the vested interest, as the majority here was saying, that Governors in their States should have the ability to make decisions on Federal waters that are not within the boundaries of their States but in the same breath saying that Governors in the Interior States should not have the ability to have decisions made on Federal lands within our States.

I am sorry. That is pure hypocrisy.

This is a lack of focus. It is a lack of focus when a year ago, the Democratic leadership asked the President to find a way to cut down the cost of energy, oil and gas, to use his personal contacts to cut down the prices of that, and then we are bringing bills in here today that will drive up the costs, which will cut down our possibility of doing that in the future.

You can do it, but there is a hypocrisy to the very essence of what is going on.

Unfortunately, the three bills that will be thrown out here today by the
Democrats as their policy will have the net effect of destroying jobs and harming our economy, potentially turning us to an economic tailspin. That can happen.

More importantly, it is nice to have a visual contrast that shows the moronic, Republican-led opposition, led by Mr. Scalise and Ms. Cheney and several others, introduced a comprehensive energy package, an energy package that is for all energy, all of the above, both fossil fuel and alternative, one that will create more jobs, which will give a logical standard of what we should do going forward with a clear view.

The clear view of what Republicans would like to do with having a logical, comprehensive approach is in vast contrast to three disjointed, dispirited, nonscientific bills that simply want to pay off political communities.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chairman, I stand in opposition to this legislation which undermines the United States’ energy dominance and makes us strategically weaker as a nation.

I remember Admiral Mike Mullen saying there is no national security without energy. We are having to buy from Russia to the U.S. when the United States has been the number one producer of natural gas since 2009.

New England relies on foreign countries for about 20 percent of its natural gas. Why? Because we don’t have the pipeline capacity running from the Marcellus shale up to New England to provide American natural gas, so they are having to buy from Russia.

Development of our resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, opening up areas that were blocked by past administrations to energy development, exploration, and ultimately, production, provides money for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and it provides national security for places like New England and lessens their dependence on a foreign source of natural gas. And that foreign source, ladies and gentlemen, is Russia.

Let this be a lesson in what is in store for this country if this bill is adopted. This bill leverages our adversary, Russia, while undermining our security.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, let me first thank the sponsor of this legislation, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL), and Mr. GRILJALVA for all of their work on this legislation.

I want to say that I do think a permanent moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the Pacific and Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf planning areas is something that we must do. It doesn’t matter whether you represent the Atlantic or the Pacific Coast communities. A vote for a permanent moratorium on oil and gas developments along these shores is a vote for our country’s economic future.

I heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the last two speakers talk about national security and...
how we don’t have an energy plan. The bottom line is that, if you look at the consequences to the economy of the country in these coastal communities from something like the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, it was a 10-year project to recoup $40 billion from the Department of Justice. Fishermen and others who have, you think is going to come from this offshore drilling. It is minuscule in comparison to the economic impact to our area.

So don’t talk to me about jobs and loss of jobs when you see the loss of jobs that occurred after BP and you could talk to our communities. That is absolutely no comparison, gentlemen. I have to say that over and over again.

Now, we have put 1-year annual moratoriums. We passed an amendment that I had in the appropriations bill, Interior appropriations, to have a moratorium on an annual basis in the appropriations bill, but it is high time that we have a permanent moratorium. It is not enough to just address this annually through the appropriations process.

Mr. Chairman, I want to particularly commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), I was actually in his district, and I just heard unanimous praise of his effort to stop this drilling.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, once again, I appreciate the opportunity to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPPTON), someone who realizes that not only does he oppose offshore drilling, but if you add one of the amendments they have, you are going to stop any kind of seismic activity that would allow alternative activity to be developed in these sources, as well.

Mr. TIPTON of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1941, a bill that would permanently block responsible oil and gas development in the Atlantic and Pacific planning areas.

As a Representative from a district that has overwhelming amounts of Federal land, I often find myself engaged with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about the importance of allowing local leaders to be able to manage the lands that are around them. I strongly believe that what happens on those public lands that surround their communities.

The argument I am met with is that public lands belong to all Americans, to benefit all Americans.

And it is true, the responsible energy development that happens on public lands in my district benefits all Americans in the form of reliable and low-cost energy sources, but we are here today debating a bill that would put in place moratoriums on offshore drilling and prevent those offshore projects from being undertaken.

According to a 2017 Wood Mackenzie study on offshore wind and solar, would represent one-twelfth of the revenues in oil and gas by 2035 as some major oil and gas companies seize opportunities in the wind power market.

If the goal of my friends on the other side of the aisle is to reduce our country’s reliance on fossil fuels, why push policies that cut off the source of the investment of oil and gas companies that are making renewable energy? We should be supporting industry and market-led shifts to renewable energy, not imposing drastic policies like H.R. 1941 that hamstring these efforts.

Finally, earlier this year, the House and Senate overwhelmingly passed a public lands package that permanently authorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund. All we are saying here today is that, to weigh any benefits that might come either in jobs or in money that comes back to the Land and Conservation, whatever, you cannot possibly compare the economic loss that we would have from oil spills to what we would have from this relatively small amount of oil that is going to be captured by these oil companies in offshore drilling on the Atlantic and the Pacific Coasts.

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I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), our new Member in his first term here.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the request for yielding. I yield.

Mr. Chairman. I come from the Commonwealth of Virginia, a Commonwealth which is rich in natural resources. We have an abundant supply of energy sources, but this legislation would destroy the untapped potential for research and investment in oil and gas resources off our coast.

This bill would stifle innovation, prevent job creation, and severely limit the ability of our Nation to realize its full potential for achieving long-term energy independence.

Studies have shown that exploring offshore oil and natural gas resources would bring thousands of jobs to Virginia and significantly boost its economy.

Earlier this spring I traveled with Congressman SCALISE and a delegation of Members to his district in Louisiana, and helicoptered off into the Gulf of Mexico where I was able to see firsthand the great strides that have been made in energy exploration, technology, and innovation, and the great benefits that have accrued to Louisiana: Louisiana schools, Louisiana roads, and port projects as a result.

The amazing developments in ensuring that energy resources can be explored and extracted safely and with minimal impact to our environment, demonstrate that similar efforts can be achieved back home in the waters off the coast of Virginia, and that our environmentally sensitive areas would be protected for future generations to enjoy, while we can lower energy costs for residents and businesses across our great Commonwealth.

H.R. 41 would block millions of dollars from going to Virginia and other coastal States. If South Carolina doesn’t want the money, fine, but the Federal Government should not be in the business of halting Virginia and, in turn, America’s economic growth. Failing to give States like mine the ability to explore the resources off our coast would be a grave disservice to my constituents, our Commonwealth, and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 41, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Mr. Chair, the administration’s proposed 5-year plan for expanded oil and gas leasing would pose significant danger to our Nation’s coastal waters which are home to thousands of plants and animal species that rely on a well-balanced marine ecosystem.

According to Oceana, oil and gas exploration could have untold effects on fish and marine wildlife, from decreasing fish catches, to increasing stranding or beaching of marine mammals.

On top of that, oceans are an enormous driver of our States’ economies. In my home State of Rhode Island, ocean industries such as fishing, tourism, and recreation account for nearly $2 billion in annual economic activity and support more than 41,000 jobs.

Throughout New England, it accounts for more than $17 billion annually. Our States cannot afford to risk the coastal areas posed to our oceans and coasts by the administration’s misguided proposal to expand oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic. We cannot afford to sit by and watch the President plunder our oceans for the benefit of the big oil companies at the expense of plundering our oceans, endangering fishing and tourism industries, and harming coastal communities.

I was proud to introduce legislation earlier this year, the New England Coastal Protection Act, which would prohibit drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf off of the coast of the New England States, which I am proud to say has the support of every Member of Congress from New England, and which is incorporated in this bill before the House today.

It is imperative that this country pursue a cleaner, more sustainable energy future which protects our oceans and coastal areas, innovation, and spurs job growth.

I strongly urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. Chair. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), who happens to be the Republican co-chair of the House Congressional Steel Caucus.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, for years, we have been told that we live in a resource-poor Nation. We were also told that the domestic oil and gas reserves were depleted. But, today, we know how wrong those predictions were.

America is now the world leader in energy development. But don’t forget about the jobs. Oil and gas production is a jobs multiplier. According to recent studies, more than 10 million American jobs can be attributed to oil and gas development. Each drilling and oil job, many more are created in manufacturing, transportation, and service industries.

In my district, the U.S. Steel Granite City Works facility produces the steel for Oil Country Tubular Goods. These products are used in oil and gas production. These are good-paying jobs with great benefits. In addition to the steel jobs in Granite City, approximately 10,000 Illinois manufacturers have jobs that have oil and gas industry ties. According to some estimates, an additional 1 million manufacturing jobs could be created through oil and gas development.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his work on this and for yielding me the time.

Today I rise in support of the Coastal Marine Economies Protection Act and to defend Maine’s coastline for future generations.

This summer, I was blessed to, once again, become a grandmother. With the birth of my new grandson, I am now lucky enough to be the grandmother of four. All four of my grandchildren played in and around the ocean this summer, the Gulf of Maine, just as their parents have done and so many other Mainers do every summer.

The Gulf of Maine is an irreplaceable natural resource that is a draw for millions of tourists each year, and it is critical to the Maine economy. It should not be exploited for oil and drilling.

The climate crisis has already taken a toll on our waters. It has caused ocean acidification and rising sea levels, and the warming of the ocean has put Maine’s vibrant fishing industries in peril.

Drilling for fossil fuels in the Gulf of Maine when we should be investing in renewable energy, is like trying to put out a fire by dousing it with kerosene.

I believe it is our duty as elected leaders to leave this Nation better than we found it. That means ensuring we preserve our oceans for our children and our grandchildren, and we fight this climate crisis with all we have got.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Maine.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting H.R. 41, because sacrificing our coastline to further this Nation’s dependence on fossil fuels is nothing short of irresponsible.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to this bill and the other two natural resources bills that we will be considering this week.

I want to start by saying that it is unfortunate that we are in this position today. One of the predominant reasons for this disappointment is that I, like many of my colleagues, both support...
energy development, while looking after our natural and ecological re-

sources. I love my district dearly. I was born and raised there. I have lived there all of my life and will continue to live there for the rest of my life. I will vote on these bills to protect the beautiful coastline that we have in my district.

But blanket bans instituted by these bills across the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf, and Arctic coasts are misguided and are, quite plainly, the wrong approach.

In January of last year, I raised con-
cerns with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management about how this plan would affect Georgia and my constitu-
ents. In April of this year, after the Georgia General Assembly passed a res-
olution opposing energy exploration in Federal waters off of Georgia, I sent a letter to Secretary Bernhardt request-
ing he exclude Georgia from consider-
ation under this plan.

Mr. Chair, I have taken public service seriously for my entire life. When I was elected to serve the people of the First District of Georgia, I knew that I would be representing the will of my constituents, and I am. That is why I have been firm in my stance that Geor-

gia be removed from consideration due to concerns from the State legislature.

But while my request to remove Georgia from consideration under this plan stands, I firmly believe it would be unwise and counterproductive to move forward with this blanket ban on U.S. Federal waters.

Knowing these bills would be coming to the floor this week, I had no choice but to do something to support the request I heard in the district that waters off of Georgia be removed. That is why I, in order to abide by my commitment to my constituents in our community, submitted amendments to the Committee Rules.

Unfortunately, my amendments, which would empower States to decide what is best for them, remove Georgia from consideration and address our national security, were not accept-

ed by my colleagues across the aisle.

Let me be clear. This wasn’t a rejec-
tion of including the amendments in the bill. This was a rejection of the ability to even debate them.

My colleagues across the aisle who had championed the will of the States to decide what is best for them when it comes to this topic, would not let my amendments move forward. For those who continue to support energy development offshore, I didn’t even have the opportunity to have an amendment re-

moving Georgia from consideration de-
bated on the floor of this House.

Mr. Chair, it is really unfortunate that we are even having these bills which would sacrifice tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic benefits for political grandstanding.

To step back on domestic energy de-

velopment is to promote foreign energy consumption. I can still remember when the United States was held hos-
tage to Middle Eastern resources, and we can’t allow that to happen again.

While I believe Georgia should be re-

moved from consideration, these bills are not the solution. I oppose these three bills, and I hope my colleagues will actually work with us on real solu-
tions rather than promoting messaging bills I will not even vote on.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1

2 minutes to the gentleman from New

Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today

on behalf of the New Jersey delegation, which stands to lose billions of dollars in potential oil and gas revenues.

My home State of New Jersey boasts a multi-billion dollar commercial and fishing industry. That’s 50,000 jobs and $7 billion every year. Potential spills from oil and gas development imperil every one of these jobs and every one of those industries. That is 50,000 jobs and $7 billion a year, not to mention the threats to our coastline and the clean air that we enjoy.

An oil spill could trigger even greater devastation to the nearly 500,000 jobs supported by our State’s tourism in-
dustry. Visits to the beautiful shore generates $6 billion in wages and adds $5.5 billion to the State’s tax coffers. Too much is at stake.

We cannot auction off our environment. We can’t auction off our econ-

omy, and we sure as heck can’t auction off our future to the highest bidder.

We need to protect our coast from dirty fossil fuels that would forever change the character of our coasts for the worse. We need to protect the Atlantic Coast by permanently banning offshore oil and gas drilling.

Mr. Chairman, we need a concrete plan of action like this because the climate is changing in a way that threat-

ens our national security, or eco-

systems, and our economy.

Thank you to all my sponsors—the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act, sponsored by Representative CUNNINGHAM of California, and the Open Ocean Act by Representative BISHOP of Utah. These two bills are forward-thinking and will actually work with us on real solu-

tions that are not the solution. I oppose these three bills, and we had Republicans, environmental groups, sportsmen, and many, many others.

This bill does what seems obvious to almost everyone. It bans offshore drill-
ing in the Atlantic Ocean. It is an issue that brings together business groups, environmental groups, sportsmen businesses, as well as environ-

mentalists all together.

In my district, we had a press con-

ference in support of this legislation and banning, and we had Republicans, Democrats, Independents, businesspeople, as well as environ-

mentalists all together.

In South Jersey, our coast is our life blood. It is everything. It is our econ-

omy, it is our culture, and it is our way of life.

Our fisheries and tourism industry are worth nearly $50 billion a year, sup-
porting well over half a million jobs statewide. If an oil spill would occur on our coast, our beaches, natural re-

sources, and coastal properties would be wiped out in a heartbeat.

Our fishermen, casino workers, hospi-
tality industry, restaurants, and small businesses would all, each and every one of them suffer.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1941.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I re-
serve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Cali-

fornia (Mr. TED LIEU).

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Chair, I thank Representative LOWENTHAL for his leadership.

Today, I rise in support of this legis-
lation by Representative CUNNINGHAM to permanently ban offshore oil drilling on both the Atlantic and Pacific. This would apply to new offshore oil drilling. Such oil drilling is both dangerous and harms coastal economies.

My congressional district spans the coast of Los Angeles from Palos Verdes to Malibu. Its natural beauty is rivaled by few, and the tourism, recreation, and other ocean-related industries flourish because of it.

Just a few years ago, in 2015, an oil pipeline ruptured in Santa Barbara to the north of my district, spilling 100,000 gallons of oil into the ocean, killing wildlife, and forcing closure of beaches in my district as their oil flowed down. This oil spill can affect large pieces of land and our environment, and our economy suffered.

H.R. 1941 is a forward-thinking bill that will protect California’s coast and help turn us away from fossil fuels. At a time when tackling the climate crisis is absolutely critical, I urge my colle-
agues to support this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I con-
inue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mary-
land (Mr. HOYER), who is the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding. I thank Mr. BISHOP for his leadership on this important issue.

I rise in strong support of this bill in-

troduced by Mr. CUNNINGHAM from South Carolina and two other bills on the floor this week that will be consid-
ered. All three are bipartisan bills.

I thank Mr. CUNNINGHAM for his lead-
ership on this particular issue.

A permanent moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in pristine, un-
touched areas will help protect eco-

systems and economies all along our Nation’s Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. The other bills we will be considering this week will prevent oil and gas drill-

ing along the Gulf Coast of Florida and
protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Trump administration is forcing a false choice between energy security and the health and safety of our coastal and Arctic environments. If we fail to preserve our coastal and Arctic ecosystems, then we put at risk the livelihoods of millions of Americans in those communities that depend on their continued health and abundance. In those communities on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico, tourism, outdoor recreation, and fishing are crucial to their economies. In Alaska, the Qw’ich’in people rely on the carefully balanced Arctic ecosystem for hunting, fishing, and their ancient way of life. Drilling in these areas creates an unacceptable risk both to our environment and to the people who live in those communities.

Mr. Chair, the United States is now the largest producer of oil and gas in the world. No one would have thought that possible even a decade ago, yet here we are. Thank to advances in technology, over the past 6 years, we have increased our offshore oil and gas output. All of that has been made possible without touching vulnerable environments like the Arctic refuge or off the coast of my home State of Maryland, the Atlantic or the Pacific.

The Trump administration is proposing to open the entire eastern seaboard for oil and gas development, from the Gulf of Maine to the Straits of Florida, States up and down the Atlantic, and even down to our local coast. We have seen what happens when something goes wrong, as was the case with the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010. An oil spill making its way into the Chesapeake Bay and destroying our world-class fisheries and the beauty of the beaches. Maryland’s Chesapeake and Atlantic shores would, frankly, be devastating.

Instead of doubling down on fossil fuels, we ought to be working to reconfigure our economy to meet the challenges of climate change and seize opportunities from developing new clean energy technologies and leading the world in transitioning to a low- and eventually zero-carbon economy.

The Democratic-led House already, Mr. Chair, took action on climate change earlier this year with the passage of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, which would uphold our commitment under the Paris climate agreement that the President inadmissibly withdrew from.

We will also continue taking meaningful action to stop the Trump administration’s rollback of rules meant to protect our water and our natural environments for generations to come. Our children, Mr. Chair, and our grandchildren—and, yes, our great-grandchildren—deserve to inherit an Earth and an America that is clean, healthy, and sustainable. We ignore this challenge, Mr. Chair, at our peril.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) for leading this effort; I thank Mr. CUNNINGHAM; and I rise in strong support of the legislation we are going to consider.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, how much time is remaining? The gentleman from California has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL), who is a highly respected Representative.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. This would make certain that there is no future offshore oil and gas leasing off California’s coast and put the interests of the American people first. We cannot put corporate profits of Big Oil above protecting our environment. My constituents in the central coastal portion of California have seen the damage oil spills inflicted on our communities and our local economies. During the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, over 100,000 barrels of crude oil spilled into the Santa Barbara Channel. This was the largest oil spill in California’s history. It fundamentally harmed Santa Barbara’s unique marine ecosystem and wildlife, recreational interests, and commercial fishing.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentleman from California an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Paired with the 2015 Plains Refugio oil spill, where cleanup costs hit $92 million, these incidents show us that we cannot afford another disastrous oil spill.

In contrast, California’s coastal region tourism generates over $1.9 trillion of GDP per year. It also supports more than $731 billion in wages. Any future oil drilling would pose a direct threat to our local economies and the success of local businesses that are tied to clean oceans and healthy ecosystems. We must safeguard our planet’s ecosystems and economies for generations, including my two grandchildren, Roman and Gianna. This is why I urge passage of H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a Statement of Administrative Policy, which indicates the President’s advice would recommend a veto of this particular bill in the unlikely event that it will actually be considered by the Senate, but, Mr. Chair, you can bet your Social Security payments it won’t be.
September 11, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H7613

2018, energy development on Federal and In-
dian lands and waters generated approxi-
mately $9 billion in direct revenue from ro-
yalty, bonus bids, and rents, Of that re-
vune, California imports 57 percent of its oil sup-
ply, a staggering 37 percent of which comes from Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, to meet winter demand, California’s power grid must draw power from 150 power plants. Total emissions from these power plants is more than double those from California’s homes and businesses.

American energy is produced with a smaller carbon footprint under significantly stronger environmental protections than energy produced anywhere else in the world. We add value to American consumers by reducing the cost to access the energy that powers our daily lives, creating high-wage jobs, strengthening the U.S. economy and our energy independence. Next week, the House of Representatives is expected to consider legislation undercutting domestic energy security and economic opportunity by blocking American energy access. We urge you to reject these bills and instead stand up for energy produced in America, by American workers for the benefit of American families.

Sincerely,


DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY:

In support of energy independence and American preeminence, it is vital that the United States be free to produce its energy from our own resources. I have long advocated for energy development on Public Lands, and strongly urge your support of H.R. 205, which would permanently extend the moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; H.R. 1416, to prohibit oil and gas exploration and development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR); and, H.R. 1414, which would bar offshore drilling along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

Once again, jobs of LIUNA members who work in the energy sector are being targeted for elimination with radical, purely political purposes. There is absolutely no chance for these ‘message bills’ to be enacted into law this Congress. So, in stead of working to enact real job creating infrastructure legislation, union members see their jobs once again being denigrated and belittled.

Energy independence is central to the future of the American economy and our standard of living. Unfortunately, the enemies of energy independence are trying to walk off the public’s energy resources.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI:

We write to urge the House to oppose this legislation.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation. The legislation will put the United States at a distinct disadvantage with the rest of the world by taking some of our country’s most valuable energy deposits off-limits to exploration. By the way, these are the people of the United States’ resources.

Under the current administration, America is experiencing an energy renaissance. By taking an all-of-the-above approach to energy policy, this administration has kick-started unprecedented growth in our energy production. For the first time since the 1950s, the United States is now an energy exporter of oil and natural gas, providing great benefits for our economy and our national security. However, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to make these successes short-term phenomena.

By permanently putting both the Atlantic and Pacific Outer Continental Shelves off-limits to oil and gas exploration, this bill ties one hand behind our Nation’s back. Instead of making the most of the energy deposits off-limits to development, this Congress should be interested in making sure that these deposits are responsibly developed. Technological advancements in offshore energy development have made it safer than ever before.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, in 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to clarify a couple of things that have been said in this wonderful discussion, and I...
thank all the speakers for coming before us.

The sky is not falling. Let me repeat that: The sky is not falling. It has been pointed out and reported that if we do not have drilling in the Atlantic and Pacific, it will badly hurt the Land and Water Conservation Fund because it is funded from offshore revenues. The idea that the passage of H.R. 1941 will hurt the LWCF is completely false. This bill will not affect the LWCF at all.

Let’s talk about it. All the money for the LWCF from this fund comes from the existing oil and gas activities in the central and western Gulf of Mexico. Of the resources that come into the Federal Government from these areas, the central and western Gulf of Mexico, the Land and Water Conservation Fund gets the first $900 million. That is what comes in, and then it is distributed.

Last year, what came in for the conservation fund should have been over $4.7 billion. In the last 10 years, we have brought in, at a minimum, $2.8 billion, far in excess of the $900 million that goes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

There are projections that the existing activity in the Gulf of Mexico is enough to keep the LWCF funded for many, many decades to come. We don’t need to drill in the Atlantic or the Pacific to fund the LWCF. Revenues are not the problem.

What is the problem then? The real problem is that only twice in the history of the LWCF has Congress appropriated the full $900 million. As I have pointed out, much more money has come into the Treasury. Only twice have we ever fully appropriated the money.

In fact, we have collected almost $40 billion in revenues that should have been going to the LWCF, but we have appropriated less than half of that, which is $18.4 billion.

So I am glad that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are very concerned about the LWCF, but I would like to point out that we should make sure we work together, that we get the full $900 million that we should be getting every year and that we are not getting every year.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers, and I am ready to close.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I am ready to close, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the concern that the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) has for the LWCF, and the threat though at hand is not necessarily what we have been appropriating for LWCF. The issue at hand is that you want to triple that amount.

If you are actually going to cut the potential revenue that is going to come from these areas, don’t ask to triple it at the same time. And I would still ask you—and remind you—I have got a park backlog bill that I want to have funded, and you are taking funds away from the park maintenance backlog. That is far more significant than what we are talking about.

But the real issue we are having here is a difference in the approach to the energy future of our future. You have three disjointed bills, none of them based on science—a lot of them based on mythology that we have heard here today, none of them scientifically based—but they are here in an isolated way, which the whole goal is to cut stuff. Let’s just not produce.

Now, at least when Jimmy Carter put on that sweater and started the fire and he talked to the American people, he was at least honest enough with them to say, You are going to have to lower your expectations. You won’t be able to live the lifestyle you want to have in the future.

At no time has anyone who is purporting this as some kind of an approach that has been pushed by the Democrats talked about lowering or being willing to lower their thermostats in the winter or cut down on their air-conditioning in the summer, or stop driving their boats as often as they want to, or no longer going on planes, trains, and automobiles.

Now, they just expect—miraculously—energy to be produced by other areas that they can then enjoy it in some particular way. That is not a logical approach. It can be done, but it is not a logical approach. It doesn’t just miraculously happen.

The difference is, what the Republicans have put on the table today is an overall approach to energy, a comprehensive approach to energy. Not just a comprehensive approach of how we build on our fossil fuels, but also how we build alternative energy and how we involve in that concept, because every State has a different requirement, a different initiative, and a different need. And we are trying to do that, not some one-size-fits-all blanket approach as we are going to have in this bill and the third bill that we will actually have tomorrow.

The approach the Democrats are doing is saying we won’t develop American sources of oil. Instead, we will try to rely on, maybe, them coming from somewhere else. Some of our colleagues have already talked about how the Russians are already importing into Boston. How California is spending 7 percent of its energy coming from Saudi Arabia, and they come in tankers.

And, Mr. Chair, the problem is that we fail to realize, if you really want to have a higher mathematical possibility of oil spills, it is significantly higher when it comes from tankers than it is if we do our own drilling.

So not only are we not talking about being self-sufficient, not only are we not talking about now trying to be a source of support for our allies, not only are we not trying to be somewhere where we can be a major player in this world, we are going to cut back automatically and actually make a greater risk in the process of doing it.

This is a silly approach, and it contrasts specifically with what we are attempting to do. We can have jobs and we can have a future. And we can have a future that will no longer be bullied by other countries, seeing that we are energy-weak, if we approach it the way the Republicans want to approach it.

But if we still do this disjointed, dispirited, nonscientific approach based on more myth than reality, then, actually, we are going in the opposite direction.

The Democrats in their energy-weakness, would march us back 50 years to a time when America was much more fragile and in which second-rank powers thought they could bully us into submission simply by taking advantage of our lack of a strong, coherent energy policy. And that is what Republicans do not want to see happen again.

What is that? It is to have you all look at the bill that was introduced today—the Republican approach to it. That is the way of the future.

It is bright. It is big. It is positive. It moves us forward. Not what we are doing today with a bunch of bills that piece-by-piece take us back from where we came, and we should never return again.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just, in closing, would like to make a few statements that kind of reiterate what has already been said, I think so well, and how we must protect our coast.

Right now, the United States produces, in totality, 12.3 million barrels of oil a day—crude oil, each and every day. It is an all-time U.S. record. We have done that in 2018, and we lead the world now in terms of export production. Of that 12.3 million, we export over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day. It is more than is exported from all the nations of the world, except for two OPEC nations.

We are the number one producer of natural gas. We are a net exporter of natural gas, but we also say we do—by not opening up the Atlantic and the Pacific, we are not putting this tremendous resource of oil development at risk. Right now, in the Gulf, open for development in the future, we normally put up almost 80 million acres in the Gulf for leasing each year.

Right now over 72 percent of the potential Gulf that is open for oil and gas development, 72 percent has not yet been developed. There is an estimated 43 billion barrels of oil in the Gulf yet
to be discovered and produced. There is enough oil there for the next 66 years of production at the same level that we have today. We must protect our coast. We must protect the future.

Mr. Chair, I urge swift adoption of H.R. 1941, which will block oil and natural gas lease sales in the Atlantic and Pacific.

To continue to allow the United States' ability to develop our domestic energy resources. Furthermore, it emboldens Russia to continue to use its oil and gas as a weapon against Europe.

At a time when Putin is using all available tools to sow discord and chaos around the world especially in Europe and the Middle East, we need to work together to stop him from further harming our national security interests and those of our allies. This bill is a step in the wrong direction and will further empower Putin.

In addition to this bill's geo-political ramifications, it also ignores the fact that American energy extraction technology and techniques are the best in the world. Inhibiting U.S. energy production will create a void for Russia and others to fill with their more ecologically damaging methods, while also sacrificing American jobs.

Based on the negative effects H.R. 1941 will have on global security, the environment, and our economy, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print 116-31, modified by the amendment printed in part E of House Report 116-200, shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1941

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "Coastal and Marine Economic Protection Act."
These policies are also contributing to the lowest unemployment rates for Americans of African and Hispanic heritage in our Nation’s history, rising wages after an entire lost decade of economic stagnation, and an overall rate of economic growth almost twice what we are seeing in Europe or that we saw under the Obama Administration.

And let us consider the environment. California’s coastal waters suffer from natural seepage of 86,000 barrels a year into the Pacific Ocean, the equivalent of one Santa Barbara oil spill every year. Development of our offshore resources reduces the pressure that produces seepage.

Having grown up in coastal Ventura County 50 years ago, I can tell you firsthand of the conspicuous decline in natural seepage that has occurred in the years since the Channel Islands field opened. And lest we forget, it is the abundance of natural gas that has reduced California’s carbon dioxide emissions far below what expensive and oppressive government regulation has accomplished in Europe.

California leads the Nation? Let me repeat. While our Nation’s oil production is down 15 percent, California’s is down 20 percent. While our Nation has achieved energy independence, California’s reliance on foreign oil has more than doubled. That is trailing the Nation, not leading it.

My State, that has among the most bountiful oil and natural gas resources in the Nation, has the least political will to develop them. I offer this amendment to highlight this point and to warn the rest of the Nation where it stands. And also—let’s be honest—to warn the rest of the Nation where it stands.

California leads the Nation? Let me repeat. While our Nation’s oil production is down 15 percent, California’s is down 20 percent. While our Nation has achieved energy independence, California’s reliance on foreign oil has more than doubled. That is trailing the Nation, not leading it.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the impact that this amendment will have on Pacific Coast economies by strongly opposing it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. Chair, this is a pointless amendment, and I am, frankly, a little bit embarrassed that we are even discussing it. Not only does it not improve the bill, but it is also based on a false premise.

Let’s be clear: We are not reliant on Russian energy, and the United States is not stricken by energy poverty. In fact, it is the complete opposite of the present reality.

The Atlantic and Pacific have remained off-limits to new oil and gas development for decades, but the United States now produces 12.3 million barrels of crude oil each day, which is an all-time U.S. record, and it produces the most in the world. It exports over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day, more than all but two members of OPEC exported in 2018.

We are the number three exporter of oil. We are also the number one producer of natural gas in the world, and we are a net exporter of natural gas.

Look, if we really want to lead in energy, we should be taking a bigger role in the production of renewable energy. Costs for renewable energy have plummeted, and our global competitors are jockeying to lead the world in clean energy development.

Unfortunately, Republicans seem to have dusted off the same tired talking points that they were using 10 years ago—and even longer, 20 years ago—before U.S. energy production skyrocketed.

Even worse, the Trump administration acts like it believes those talking points and continues to believe that the future lies in coal, oil, and gas.

Mr. Chair, this is a silly amendment, and it achieves nothing. For this reason, I support your position on the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I find it interesting that we are even debating this because, if it was such a poor decision, the previous Congress of the 116th Congress Committee should not have made it in order. So, there is compliance from the other side.

When we start looking at this aspect, we have to be truthful to the American people. The American people see the jargon that we actually come up with in this body, and they want to have a straight shot—common sense. This is exactly what it should be titled because there is no reason why we are trying to tear that belonged to the American people.

Yes, I am one of those who believes in all-of-the-above energy policies. What we have to tell them and explain to them is that there is a difference between baseload power and intermittent power.

Renewables do not have baseline power. To have a reliable electric grid that everybody depends upon, we have to do both. Green energy does not produce that application of baseload power, unless we are talking about hydro, and that we don’t even consider a green energy anymore, from the other side.

I think we need to be clear to the American people where these jobs are. They are good-paying jobs, $90,000 and above with benefits.

When we take away these types of reserves, it really is victimizing the American people. That is not something I want to do. I want to make sure that they are empowered.

These resources belong to the American people, and there is no reason why we shouldn’t be able to use them and extract them diligently and cleanly.

Mr. Chair, I ask everybody to vote for this, to be clear to the American public what this stands for, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I oppose the Goser amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The amendment is stricken.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. LESKO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part F of House Report 116-200.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The CHAIR. The amendment is stricken.

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5. RISK TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

The Secretary of the Interior, after consulting with the Secretary of Defense, shall report to Congress on whether this Act poses a risk to national security due to potential increase in dependence on foreign oil.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. Lesko) is the Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Arizona.
Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Chair, I thank Representative LOWENTHAL, my colleague from California, and thank my other Democratic colleagues, I think this is a commonsense amendment, and it sounds like the gentleman approves of it.

Mr. Chair, I think it is common sense, and I am hopeful that it will be voted on with “yes.” I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part F of House Report 116–200.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:
Sec. 5. STUDYING THE IMPACTS OF OFFSHORE DRILLING ON COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND COASTAL ECONOMIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the impacts of offshore drilling on coastal communities and coastal economies. The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) address how oil and gas companies interact with local stakeholders in advance of a siting decision, including their meetings with fishermen;
(2) investigate the impacts of offshore drilling on tourism, including tradeoffs during normal operations and economic impacts after a spill;
(3) describe how the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management works with other agencies, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, to include stakeholder input in advance of a siting decision;
(4) address how quickly response teams have reacted to offshore oil spills and the cost of those spills to tourism and the food supply of the affected region.
And finally, it will explore the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management works with other Federal agencies during siting. It will examine how response teams have reacted to offshore oil spills and the cost of those spills to tourism.

These are all questions that have arisen during my conversations with fishermen, tourism leaders, and other Rhode Islanders deeply concerned about the risks of drilling off our coast. Mr. Chair, I believe that offshore drilling puts the safety of our waters to tourism and the food supply of the affected region.

And finally, it will analyze the calibration of the data that we have on hand today regarding these undrilled areas of the Outer Continental Shelf, and whether such data can be reliably used to gauge the impact of proposed drilling.

We owe it to those who live in our coastal communities to be honest about the damage that such drilling can cause to them.

Mr. Chair, it will take decades to recover from an incident like the one that the Gulf experienced Deepwater Horizon spill. While the news cycle eventually moves on, the coastal communities and the people that are affected have to deal with the consequences and often continue to suffer.

That is why I am putting forward this amendment today, so that we can properly understand the full costs of drilling off our coast.

I would like to thank Congresswoman Cunningham and Senator Booker for sponsoring the underlying bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it and my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. This amendment is perhaps well-intentioned. I am going to make that assumption. But the problem with this amendment is it is not a comprehensive amendment.

The goal of this amendment is to specifically illustrate what kinds of issues will be studied by this GAO report, and they are all the negative aspects that could come from this report.

There is no aspect here, I mean, it neglects totally to try and set any kind of benefits that would happen from development of oil or gas consumer. Now, that would be a true study. That would be a fair study. That would be a good study. That would be a valuable study.

What this has done, in a statement of what you should have done is simply direct the GAO to evaluate how taking resources to the table like this will affect our dependence on imports from foreign actors like Russia, whose environmental standards, whose efficiency standards, whose human rights standards certainly are unacceptable to us in the United States. Doing so—

If you had done that, that would have been a comprehensive, that would have been an accurate representation, and that would have been a good and decent study.

So I oppose this particular amendment because I think it missed the mark.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his comments and his insights. I see that this amendment gets exactly the right information that we need. I am certainly not opposed to the gentleman’s suggestion, and if at a later date he is going to offer such additional information to be gathered by GAO, I would certainly like to look at it and perhaps even support it.

But this is the amendment that we have before us. I believe it is well thought out. Again, it is a GAO study to perform—to look at the costs and the impacts of drilling on coastal communities, which my community would obviously be affected by, and they would be affected and their economies. And I think having more information is better. I think this hits the right mark, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, in the original speech the gentleman from Rhode Island said he yielded back the balance of his time. Had he not yielded in the first speech?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I reserved the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I am sorry. Had that actually been said after the first speech, I would have reserved. But I have yielded back. I am done with this. Unless you really want to go on, I would urge the gentleman to yield back and we will go on with the vote.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I have said everything I need to say, and I would like to save the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).
The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part F of House Report 116-200.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Section 3 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1346(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The” and inserting the following:

"(a) In General.—The"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) Publication.—The Secretary shall make available to the public any reports produced under this subsection.

"(c) The amount of the payment. — On page 1, line 4, strike "2" and insert "3". On page 2, line 1, strike "3" and insert "4". On page 3, line 15, strike "4" and insert "5".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chairman, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act requires existing offshore oil and gas operations to undergo inspections and make payments into the Ocean Energy Safety Fund. My amendment would make this information available to the public.

The Trump administration’s 2018 proposed opening of more than 90 percent of U.S. Federal waters to offshore oil and gas drilling endangers the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the extreme risks posed by offshore drilling and spills.

I came to Congress to advocate on behalf of the people living in my coastal district. The American people have a vested interest in the health of their environment and the wealth of their local communities. It is essential that the public is aware of the companies who are extracting oil from our shores so that we can hold them accountable in the event of a disaster or an accident.

Offshore drilling impacts more than just coastal communities; it impacts future generations of Americans. Transparency is a key democratic principle. Citizens deserve to know which companies are drilling off our shores, the location of their facilities, and the safety and state of their operations.

In Orange County, this critical legislation helps make sure generations can come and continue to sail Newport Harbor, become junior lifeguards, surf the Wedge, catch halibut, and enjoy our pristine breaches.

This legislation is essential to maintaining our quality of life, and I thank my colleague from South Carolina for his leadership.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my amendment and passage of this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I guess kind of in opposition. It really is not in opposition to the amendment in and of itself, except it illustrates some of the problems the Democrats have in creating this approach to an energy policy coming through here, because the inspection fees that we have mandated by the amendment, if you tack that on to the bill itself, really are based on politics and not the cost of the administration of this particular inspection. In fact, it actually no longer becomes a cost of a service; it actually becomes a tax levied on the committee.

What it illustrates is a deeper problem on how the Democrats decided to put these three bills up here on their energy week, and it also may be kind of why they don't want to go any further, because the offsets are so bizarre.

In each of the bills, the Democrats have decided to use—the rules require an offset. In each of the bills, there is a different offset that is required. For the one that we will talk about tomorrow, it is going to be $900 million. I think this one is $400 million. The next one is $200 million. And in each bill, the Democrats have decided to use the same offset to pay for each bill.

Now, if you didn't do the one tomorrow and then you paid the bill with that offset, you would have taken that off the table. But that is not good enough here. Now we are using that same offset money to pay for this particular bill.

I am sorry. This is simply an accounting smoke and mirrors trick that is being used by the Democrats to actually get these three bills onto the floor. For that, I don’t really mind it, per se, because it doesn’t affect the impact of it, it is just about trying to cover the bases and check the boxes and using money in double and triple amounts.

If this offset is actually the way we are doing offsets in the future, then my parks bill doesn’t have a problem going forward because we can use this money for that at the same time.

Although, it is ironic that the money that they are going to use to offset these bills will be reduced because you are stopping the energy production in all of these areas. Everything comes together in some particular way.

This is cute. This is not necessarily effective, but it is cute, and it is not the way the rules for offsets were intended to try and bring clarity to the situation within the House.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleague’s comments, and I do appreciate, I think, and I hear from him that the other side does support transparency and accountability, which is welcomed in today’s atmosphere of politics to have greater transparency and accountability.

I am prepared to close, but I will reserve the balance of my time until my colleague is prepared to close as well.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I will make it easier for him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. I yield back the balance of my time as well, Mr. Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part F of House Report 116-200.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5. MORATORIUM ON SEISMIC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OIL, GAS, AND METHANE HYDRATE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND STRAITS OF FLORIDA PLANNING AREAS.

Section II of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(1) MORATORIUM ON SEISMIC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OIL, GAS, AND METHANE HYDRATE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND STRAITS OF FLORIDA PLANNING AREAS—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agency of the United States or person may conduct or authorize any other person to conduct geological or geophysical activities in support of oil, gas, or methane hydrate exploration and development in any area located in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida Planning Areas of the outer Continental Shelf.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, my bipartisan amendment establishes a moratorium on seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean.

I would like to begin by thanking my friends, Chairman LOWENTHAL, Chairman GRISALVA, and Congresswoman CUNNINGHAM, for leading this bill and for working with me on this provision. I also thank my cosponsors, Congressmen SMITH, BEYER, and VAN DREW, for...
During seismic testing, ships pull giant airguns through the ocean that release loud, pressurized blasts of air into the seabed in search of oil and gas. The noise, which is as much as 200 times louder than a jet engine, tells us that noise from these airguns can disturb, injure, or kill marine animals from zooplankton, the base of the food web, all the way up to large whales. In addition, airgun noise can reduce food availability for fish and certain not essential behaviors in marine mammals, including dolphins and whales.

I believe we need to be building a clean energy future, but seismic airgun blasts lay the groundwork for more dangerous fossil fuel extraction that is bad for our economy and for the environment.

I am proud to support H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act, because I share the concerns of so many of my constituents who have reached out to me urging Congress to reject proposals that open our coastal and marine economies to harmful seismic testing.

In the 7 years following the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, the U.S. oil and gas industry experienced more than 4,000 explosions, collisions, and related incidents, including 34 oil spills of more than 2,000 gallons each. This bill will help us end these disasters once and for all, and I thank my friend Congressman CUNNINGHAM for his leadership here. My bipartisan amendment takes an extra step to make this legislation stronger yet.

I yield myself the balance of my time.
there anyway—in which case we basically say as a Congress we don’t care about understanding what we are doing, we are just thinking it is the right thing to do, so we will go ahead and do it—this is bad policy. It is bad policy for the underlying bill. It is bad policy for the Amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Levin-Beyer-Smith-Van Drew amendment to H.R. 141, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. This amendment, which I’m proud to cosponsor, would ensure that H.R. 141 not only proscribe future oil and gas leases of the Outer Continental Shelf in the Atlantic and Pacific planning areas but also prohibits any seismic activities in the Atlantic Ocean planning areas.

Seismic activities are performed to first test for the possibility of oil and gas but in and of themselves, these activities pose countless risks to marine life and, by extension, our fishing industries and the health of our coastal ecosystems. Seismic airgun blasting in particular can deafen or seriously maim marine wildlife which rely upon sonar power for movement and can significantly affect local fish populations, which in turn harm New Jersey’s fisheries as well as the fishing industry—a vital contributor to the economic well-being of my district on the Jersey Shore.

I have continuously stated my opposition to offshore drilling and have made it clear that the people of New Jersey do not want oil rigs offshore, and we do not want our pristine beaches and waters at risk from oil spills.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment to H.R. 141 and to support the underlying bill.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part 1 of House Report 116-200.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 2 of this Act shall not be effective until the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, finds that the prohibition under section 2 will not adversely affect jobs available to minorities and women.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that allows the section 2 moratorium in this bill to go into effect when the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Labor, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs.

Under the current administration, unemployment has reached record lows. In August, the national unemployment rate sat at 3.7 percent, with the unemployment rate for African American workers sitting at 5.5 percent, both a record low of 5.9 percent which was set in May of 2018 under the same administration.

According to a recent jobs report from The Washington Post—hardly a bastion of conservative credentialing—more than 592,000 jobs added under this administration have gone to minority communities. This is astounding. This can be attributed to the first time a majority of new hirers are people between the ages of 25 and 54, and they are from the minority communities.

According to statistics published by the American Petroleum Institute, minorities will comprise one-third of the workforce in the oil and gas sector. By 2030, already a majority of the jobs added under this administration comprise more than 15 percent of the oil and gas workforce. These are good-paying jobs, paying $90,000, that hardworking families depend upon.

This legislation puts these employment opportunities at risk by putting off limits potentially viable and valuable offshore energy opportunities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico that are the property of the American people. For the first time since the 1950s, the United States will soon be a net exporter of oil and natural gas, something that at one time was unthinkable. America’s energy renaissance has boosted the economies of previously left-behind towns throughout the country and turned them into vibrant communities.

Mr. Chairman, this commonsense amendment protects minority and women’s jobs and puts the interests of the American workforce first and foremost. It is very clear-cut, something that the American people can fully understand.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, this amendment has nothing to do with the bill. It is simply an attempt to block protections for the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts, and it is based upon a false concern for women and minorities’ jobs.

We know that Members from both sides of the aisle understand that our existing coastal economies are incompatible with more offshore oil and gas development. I believe that enacting this underlying bill and protecting the Atlantic and Pacific coast from the dangers of offshore drilling will, in itself, create well-paying jobs in the coastal tourism and recreational industries, many of which are held by women and people of color.

For example, thriving fish stocks and healthy marine mammals off the coasts of Oregon, New Jersey, Maryland, and Florida support tackle shops, whale watching tours, and seafood markets.

Oil-free beaches and bays in Virginia and the Carolinas drive business for local restaurants, vacation rentals, and outfitters.

People from all walks of life, from diverse backgrounds, and from both political parties cherish these special places and rely on healthy oceans, clean beaches, and the abundant fish and wildlife that come with it.

For example, last week, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast wrote to this body and expressed its strong support for the underlying bill. According to the business coalition, which represents more than 4,000 businesses along the West Coast, offshore drilling threatens nearly 746,000 jobs and nearly $53 billion in GDP.

The real threat to jobs and economic opportunities in coastal communities would be failing to protect permanently our shorelines from dangerous oil drilling.

This is an unserious amendment that does nothing to protect jobs belonging to women and minorities, and it keeps the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts at risk.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I urge opposition to the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I had thought I heard that this has nothing to do with the bill. If that is the case, I take umbrage with that, and maybe we ought to take it up with the Parliamentarian. The majority actually put this in order, so I think it does pertain to this bill.

I also heard that we can’t have our cake and eat it too, that it is all about visitation and enjoying the outdoors. How does that work for Colorado? How does that work for the West? Does that work for Arizona? We actually have our cake and can eat it too.

Once again, I remind everybody that these are the property of the American people, not of individual States. I get it. You are closest to this, so you are implicated in some way or form. But I also want to remind you that, particularly in the Pacific, natural slicks of oil exist naturally. It is something that nature actually takes care of. With that aspect, it is very important.

The power of a job is very, very important. It empowers people. It doesn’t victimize them. It is very important that we are astute as to where we are putting people to work.

By the way, if we don’t have good jobs, how can we travel to go visit these wonderful sites, enjoy a boat ride going out and fishing in those areas?

When you start to look at some of our most plentiful playgrounds of these areas, look no further than Alaska, one of the most plentiful, bountiful areas for fish and wildlife. People come from
California’s economic drivers are concentrated along California’s coastline, and an oil spill from a Federal platform, pipeline, or barge transporting oil would have a catastrophic impact on California’s and the Nation’s economy and natural resources. In fact, 40 percent of all goods shipped into the United States come through the Long Beach and Los Angeles ports of entry, and these goods go to all 435 districts across the United States. Every community would be impacted.

Offshore oil and gas threatens key economic drivers in coastal districts and States. Disasters on the scale of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, one of the largest environmental disasters in American history, cost our country more than $60 billion in economic damages and environmental damages beyond calculation.

Let’s not lose sight that even a small spill has the potential to devastate important marine and coastal resources and the communities and businesses that depend on them.

California is home to more than 800 miles of coastline, and its coastal economies annually generate hundreds of billions of dollars in wages nationally and nearly $2 trillion in GDP. A disaster could put at risk nearly 746,000 West Coast jobs and $33 billion of GDP that rely on healthy ocean ecosystems and a clean marine environment.

Mr. Chair, I thank Representative Cunningham for his leadership on this important issue and the efforts to protect our coasts from new oil and gas leasing. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my amendment and the passage of this critical piece of legislation.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, clearly, the best thing that can be said about this amendment is it is the last one of this particular bill, and we can move on.

The negative part that I have to say about this amendment is the same thing I said about the other amendments. It is a study that is halfway through. There is no comprehensive; it doesn’t cover all elements that should be studied; and in fact, it will produce a skewed result because of what narrowly comes within it.

There should be a study that says what jobs will or will not happen from this. That would be a study. That would be a portion of it that would be worth it. But it is not covered in what we are attempting to do here.

In fact, if you think about it, this is kind of a bizarre approach to things. We already have a base bill to be passed that will ban this activity, and then we are going to institute a whole bunch of studies to see if we should have done the base bill in the first place. This is totally backward in the way bills should be done.

If the gentleman really believed in the study and wanted to get the data, for heaven’s sake, do that before introducing a bill that bans the activity in the first place.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chair, I appreciate my colleague’s comments, but I do want to point out the purpose of this is simply to make sure that if we are going to enter into offshore leases, we fully understand the economic impact in the event of a potential disaster occurring. That seems to be a reasonable obligation of Members of Congress to taxpayers of America and working families across America, to make sure that we protect them against future environmental disasters.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, once again, same thing: It is superfluous. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

Mr. Chair, I thank Representative Cunningham for his leadership on this important issue and the efforts to protect our coasts from new oil and gas leasing. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my amendment and the passage of this critical piece of legislation.

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House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 205) to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, with Mr. LAWSON of Florida in the chair.

The Clerk fills out the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act, would permanently extend the eastern Gulf of Mexico from oil and gas drilling.

Nearly all of the eastern Gulf remains protected under a leasing moratorium until 2022 under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. This bill would permanently extend that moratorium and, in doing so, would safeguard Florida's marine resources, environment, and coastal tourism economy.

Some of Florida's more valuable assets are tied to its beaches and its coastal ecosystems. These drive a tourism economy in Florida that brings in billions of dollars each year and supports over 1.4 million jobs.

Over 2,000 Florida businesses, including restaurants, hotels, and outfitters, have expressed their strong support for permanently protecting the eastern Gulf because they know firsthand the economic consequences of an offshore oil spill.

Following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, Florida suffered a $7.6 billion loss in tourism revenue, and bookings for hotels and for-hire fishing trips dropped significantly. Even for places that were left untouched, the perception of oil-covered shores was enough to redirect vacationing tourists to other coastal States. That is why voters in the Sunshine State, Democrats and Republicans alike, have made clear time and time again that offshore drilling has no place near Florida's shores.

The eastern Gulf of Mexico also has incredible varieties of marine life and training range, and enactment of H.R. 205 is critical for America's national security and military preparedness.

In 2015, the Department of Defense determined that offshore oil and gas in the eastern Gulf of Mexico would jeopardize the ability of the military to conduct operations in the region.

Even the Trump administration, which bends over backwards to support the oil and gas industry, understands how deeply unpopular offshore drilling is in Florida and has manipulated the offshore leasing process for political reasons.

Five days after proposing to offer all of America's coastal oil and gas resources for lease, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke rushed down to Tallahassee to meet with then-Governor Rick SCOTT. Understanding that Governor Scott was facing a tough Senate race but could never oppose anything from the Trump administration, Secretary Zinke tweeted that he was "removing Florida from the draft offshore plan" at the Governor's behest.

However, Secretary Zinke was contradicted less than 2 weeks later when a top Interior Department official stated that Florida was, in fact, still under consideration for offshore leasing. Then, at one of our hearings in the Natural Resources Committee, Secretary Zinke seemed to say that Florida was both safe yet still being considered.

The problem for Secretary Zinke was that the oil and gas industry really wants to drill in the eastern Gulf, and this administration wants to do whatever this industry wants. But the people of Florida do not want the industry near their shores, and this administration needs Florida to vote for it next year.

So now the administration has paused the new leasing program because they can't show their true intentions before the next election. With a wink and a nod towards industry, the administration has paused their plans for new leasing. But it is only a sham disguised to convince Florida that it is safe, while also making it clear to the industry that, if they get a second term, the eastern Gulf will be open for drilling.

In May, I wrote to Interior Secretary Bernhardt requesting a copy of the leasing program as it currently exists so we could settle the debate over whether Florida was in or out. Unsurprisingly, Secretary Bernhardt has failed to turn over that plan.

The fact is that Florida's beaches will not be safe from the threat of offshore drilling until we have passed the two bills we are debating today: this one to protect Florida's Gulf Coast and H.R. 1941 to protect Florida's Atlantic Coast.

Florida voters should not have to worry over the next 16 months whether drilling rigs will one day appear on the horizon. H.R. 205 provides Florida's Gulf Coast permanent protection from offshore oil drilling and deserves this body's full support.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have three bills in this package of supposed Democrat energy. This is different than the other time.

In the last bill we were talking about here on the floor—at least the five people who actually were here on the floor to talk about it—that was an ideological approach. This is different. This deals with the military. This deals with military issues on water that is important. It puts off limits for its military purpose.

There are military bases of significance in Florida, specifically Eglin. There is a military test and training range on the waters in Florida. They are important, and, indeed, they need to be preserved for our military.

If, indeed, the military has an area that is essential to military preparedness and readiness, we should be cognizant of that. There is no problem with that. The problem was in this military line, it was simply arbitrarily drawn.

You take the latitude and the longitude and you just go down the line, which means the line, itself, is bizarre and arbitrary. The line, itself, is actually closer to New Orleans than it is to Florida. The line, itself, has a greater impact on the economies of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana than it does in Florida.

What we should have done, were we wise in this process, is to try to seek some kind of variance to make sure that the science was actually used and that we don't just take a ruler and draw a straight line on some map. Already in the areas that are west of this line—the other things that are already open for oil and gas exploration—there is cooperation between the Interior Department and the Department of Defense in how you do it.

Thirty-six percent of all the drilling that is done in the rest of the Gulf is already under some kind of stipulation with the Department of Defense. In fact, there is a memo of understanding between the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Interior that has been there since 1983 which mandates they cooperate and they consult and they work through these things in an appropriate way.

Were something like that to be part of this bill, I know I could support it. And to everyone else who is on the floor, I would argue to do the same thing. The sad part is this bill doesn't do that. Instead, it simply locks up the issue on the one line that happens to be there.

Now, here is where I don't blame anyone seated on the floor, the six of us who actually are here. I do blame the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee made a very bad rule and abused some of the powers that the Rules Committee has to deal with it. Not only did they make several amendments self-executing—and, I am sorry, I was on the Rules Committee for a long time, I thought when we did that it was long overdue. But it was also lousy policy in this rule to make some of the amendments self-executing.
But then they forgot other amendments that could have brought something into conclusion so that we could simply say, if there is a military reason, then, yes, and allow the military to make that decision. That would have been fine. I would have bought, and I would have been happy to support this particular bill.

But instead, the Rules Committee insisted that there be miscellaneous amendments that have nothing to do brought up here and that I have no ability to do to try to bring some kind of cooperation together.

So we are now faced with a bill that will be done on an arbitrary standard without study. It will be done on an arbitrary line without science being given to it. It will be an arbitrary line that will simply call everything out simply because somebody drew a line on a map without thinking about it.

It is a way that this is the sad part about this particular bill. I respect the sponsor of this particular bill. I respect what he is trying to do. I agree with most of what he is trying to do. But this could have been a much better bill. This could have been a bill that I could support and I think most other people could support and we could move forward, that would have a much better option and chance of actual passage in the Senate as well as passage by a President who would sign it, rather than actually putting forth an SAP which indicates that he would be advised to veto it. That did not happen.

The reason it is not happening in a better way is simply because the Rules Committee refused some of the options that were in front of them, and they should have done it. They could have done it. They could have done a better situation than what they had done.

So, in this situation, because we now have a bill which, once again, takes science and throws it into the trash can like the other bill did and like the next one I will do, I have a bill which I have to oppose, and it did not have to be that way in the long run.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY), the original sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act, which makes the existing moratorium in the eastern Gulf permanent.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Representative CASTOR, our colead, for coleading this effort with me and our bipartisan Florida delegation for their support.

I have talked repeatedly about the existential threat offshore drilling poses to us on the west coast of Florida. It jeopardizes our tourist and recreational economy.

Last year, 70 percent of Floridians voted to ban offshore drilling because tourism accounts for $37.4 billion of GDP, including $17.5 billion right there on the Gulf Coast, and supports over 600,000 jobs.

Following the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the west coast of Florida faced lost economic value for commercial and recreational fishing and many canceled tourism trips, despite the fact that there was no impact to our coastline. Penn-Plax.

A 2018 study by the Gulf Restoration Network describes the continual spills in the Gulf. The Taylor Energy leak, for example, has released approximately 1 million gallons of oil over the last 14 years. Even Shell, which is a good operator, had a spill from a jumper pipeline in 2016 that dumped 1,900 barrels of oil into the Gulf. The following year, LLOG had a similar leak that dumped as much as 9,350 barrels into the Gulf.

As long as humans and complex pipeline and well bore connections are involved, there will be significant environmental risk. These undersea connections are difficult to maintain and examine.

Additionally, as documented in a study by the Pew Research Center, large quantities of bentonite and other chemicals are released in the water while drilling.

My colleagues have raised concerns about energy security and energy independence. That is an important thing. As this export-import chart shows, we are energy independent and have come net energy exporters. It was radically different. Ten years ago, these big lines were coming that way, now they are coming that way.

The exploitation of shale deposits via horizontal drilling coupled with hydraulic fracturing has revolutionized the energy industry. Once again, our American free enterprise system has brought competitive innovation to energy change the game.

In the Permian Basin of west Texas, for example, there are three shale zones. One of them, the Wolfcamp, is said to contain 20 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids—yes, billion. We have more reserves in the United States now than Russia or Saudi Arabia have in conventional reserves. A radical shift in the import and export flows of oil and gas has taken place due to American innovation.

In addition, the compelling economic case for making the moratorium in the eastern Gulf permanent, the eastern Gulf is the home of the Gulf Test Range, a 120,000-square-mile range that stretches from the Florida Panhandle to the Keys. This unimpeded training and testing area is a crucial national security asset. It cannot be replicated anywhere else in the United States—or possibly the world. Its large scale supports testing of hypersonic weapons, drone testing, and evolving weapons technology that need space for testing and restrictions for classified work.

In May 2018, the DOD published a report, “Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.” This report examines the ongoing operations of the Gulf Test Range, its inability to coexist with oil and gas operations, and its projected usage of the range.

What this chart shows here is that their projected use of the range—here is the line right here, south of Eglin Air Force Base, Alabama is way over here. It is not Alabama. It is Destin, Florida. It shows that the most intensive projected use in the foreseeable future for this testing range is right out here, smack dab next to the military mission line. We can’t let this thing move an inch east.

This is why we need to ban drilling east of the line. In 2006, this moratorium was enacted by a bipartisan Congress, President George W. Bush, and aided and abetted by Governor Jeb Bush, and I might say, Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez teamed up on this.

As we look forward to extending this moratorium now, we are a unified team in Florida. The House is working with Senator Rubio and Governor DeSantis. We have been doing that for some time on a combined strategy. All of them agree that we must protect this national security asset in Florida’s coastline. As we move forward, we will work together to convince President Trump of the critical importance of this moratorium to Florida.

Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Natural Resources Committee Chairman GRIJALVA have all stepped up and committed to protect Florida. Now we need the Senate and the administration to do the same thing.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 205, which is hostile to U.S. energy production and unnecessarily takes domestic resources off the table.

This legislation overly restricts offshore exploration and development, which would eliminate opportunities to create jobs, grow the economy, and increase U.S. energy development to lower prices for consumers.

In fiscal year 2018, offshore oil and gas development generated over $3 billion for the United States Treasury, and over California $4 billion for California. Therefore, why do we move bills like this that would stop all the progress that we have made in the American energy renaissance?

Members of Congress who support bills like this, they should like to drive the trucks. They should like to fly in airplanes. They like that 24/7, 365 baseload power supply that heats and cools their homes, provides the electricity for...
their cold drinks, and provides the power for the manufacturing processes when they are in their district.

Admiral Mike Mullen said that there is no national security without energy security. I firmly believe in that. We are going to weaken our national security by taking off the table exploration and production. What that means is, we are going to be more reliant on foreign sources of energy.

I talked about New England States receiving revenue from Russia to provide natural gas, which we have an abundance of here in this country, but New England States are getting natural gas from Russia. I find that horrid and abysmal when we have the resources in this country to provide the energy to meet our needs.

Instead of focusing on anti-energy bills like H.R. 205, we should be pursuing policies that encourage safe, reliable, and affordable energy to the American people through free-market solutions.

We are in an American energy renaissance thanks to President Trump and Republicans’ pro-growth policies, and anti-offshore bills like H.R. 205 hamper these hard-earned gains. Taking domestic production off the table would mean one thing—I reiterate—reliance on foreign energy, and that is wrong when we have the resources here in this country.

I should explore. We should find. We should develop. We should produce. We should benefit from those productions. And we should benefit from the royalties that come back to the States and the United States Treasury. To fund things like the Land and Water Conservation Fund that sets land aside for posterity funded through royalties through oil and gas production offshore. How are you going to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund if you take those royalties off the table? I tell people what they are going to do is raise taxes on you because they like the conservation policies. They are going to fund it with raising taxes. Royalties provide that funding for conservation. I strongly urge my colleagues to defeat this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA, Madam Chairwoman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from Florida. Madam Chairwoman, I want to thank Chairwoman GRIJALVA for being a champion for America’s natural resources. In doing so, the gentleman is a champion for jobs and the economy. Let us, H.R. 205.

Mr. CASTOR of Florida, Madam Chairwoman, I want to thank Chairwoman GRIJALVA for being a champion for Florida. Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Chairwoman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), an original co-sponsor—along with Mr. ROONEY—of this legislation. Madam Chairwoman, I want to thank Chairwoman GRIJALVA for being a champion for America’s natural resources. In doing so, the gentleman is a champion for jobs and the economy. Let us, H.R. 205.

We know this in Florida. That is why I rise in strong support of H.R. 205, Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019.

It is a pleasure to be here on the floor with my Republican colleague, FRANCIS ROONEY, who is passionate about protecting the State of Florida because our way of life is at risk when you put oil rigs off of our beaches.

It threatens our way of life. And the gentleman understands very well, as a successful businessman, that when you threaten our way of life, and you threaten our natural environment and our beaches, you are threatening our economy and jobs.

Even today, 9 years after the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster is still fresh in the minds of my neighbors who live all across the Gulf Coast. It was devastating. April 20, 2010. You all probably remember because CNN had the video from the oil well that continued to spew oil into the Gulf of Mexico through May, through all of June, all of July, August, and they didn’t cap the well until late in September.

It wreaked havoc not just on Florida’s economy and not just on our beautiful environment, but on people’s lives. I remember very well holding a woman in my arms who was a small business owner from Clearwater, one of Florida’s beautiful Pinellas coast beaches, or down to Sanibel Island, but the economy took a hit. They lost everything they had.

It wiped out countless small businesses, restaurants, hotels, and everyone that relies on clean water and clean beaches for their livelihood. Fishermen couldn’t fish. It was a catastrophe. Gulf seafood was off the menu. That meant people were going to the mom-and-pop restaurants for their meals.

In addition to all of that, whether it was deformed fish and species, there was permanent damage to the ecosystem. Researchers that I work with at the University of South Florida say that even today on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico in the trench off of the beautiful Florida Panhandle, there is still a layer of what they call dirty snow. Because they had to pour dispersants and chemicals onto the area of the blowout to make sure that the oil dispersed.

Well, that didn’t just disappear. It ended up in the food chain and in the entire ecosystem, and it is still out there today, impacting the food web and everything we love about the State of Florida.

In fact, the University of South Florida’s College of Marine Science has done a lot of research on this. They did 12 separate voyages over 7 years on the USF Research Vessel Weatherbird II. They say, interestingly, the areas where you have oil rigs, they have determined that fish species in that area of the Gulf are gone. There is lack of diversity there.

The entire food web is impacted. This is going to impact us for decades to come, and there is no way to make it up. The deep sea is not recovering. In fact, clearly visible abnormalities have been chronicled just recently.

The environmental impact is right in front of us; the economic impact, as well as the impact on small business owners. The U.S. Travel Association estimates that we lost $22 billion due to the BP disaster.

Our bill will ensure that that never happens again because it says permanently. That moratorium that had a bipartisan vote that Congress took in 2006 which said that until 2022, you can’t drill in that part of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; this bill will extend that permanently because this is a dangerous, dirty business.

Florida, over time, has chosen not to industrialize its coastline. Our economy is based on clean beaches and clean water. And Floridians have spoken, by the way. Last November, there was a constitutional ballot on the ballot that said we are going to ban offshore oil drilling in State waters. It often is just a few miles off the coast. It passed by 69 percent.

I wish the Trump administration would recognize this part of Florida as a special place, and to continue the moratorium permanently. Floridians and folks all over the country that come to our beautiful State to vacation, they know. It is not wanted. It is not needed.

Our future is clean energy. That is what we should be investing in. That is what we should be debating and spending time here today on. That is the future of the United States of America. That is where the jobs of the future are going to come from. Jobs in solar and wind energy are already far surpassing jobs in fossil fuels.

The climate crisis requires that America be smarter, and we don’t double down on the dirty policies of the past—dirty oil drilling.

For all of those reasons, let’s demonstrate it here today and push back on the Trump administration’s attempt to open up beaches to oil drilling. Let’s say no. We have got a bipartisan Florida delegation that is standing up, united, and I want to thank all of my colleagues from Florida for their leadership year in and year out on this issue.

Let’s send a strong vote today. Let’s send a strong message today and vote ‘yes’ on H.R. 205.
Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this bill and my colleagues' efforts to impede the rapid growth of American energy exploration. This bill is flawed in a number of ways, as we have recounted here already during this debate.

First and foremost, it is clear that banning energy exploration will increase the prices that families pay at the pump and the prices they pay to power their homes.

Unfortunately, the tax on our Nation's energy producers aren't new. We know what happens when government intervenes by imposing burdensome regulations and senseless moratoriums like we are seeing today.

For years, New England States have pushed restrictive energy policies, and what we are considering here on the floor is no exception.

A handful of Governors and State legislatures are narrowly focused on hindering the exploration and development of critical energy resources. What those policies have resulted in are increased prices for consumers, and they have done nothing to reduce demands for fossil fuels.

In fact, as Congressman DUNCAN recounted just a few moments ago, last year, those policies culminated in a Russian tanker delivering natural gas to the Boston Harbor. Why? Because there weren't enough pipelines available to bring it from nearby Pennsylvania. You heard it right.

Despite being just a few hundred miles from the Marcellus Shale, one of the largest natural gas reserves in the country, our New England States were forced to import natural gas from Vladimir Putin. Nobody on this floor—the advocates of this bill—seem to have a problem with that.

Now my colleagues want to implement these policies on a Federal level with moratoriums on drilling. The event in Boston shows us that the legislation before us would have no impact on reducing demand for fossil fuels. We would simply have to import more from our adversaries. That is not good policy.

As has been explained, to add to the madness, the bill is completely irreconcilable with the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the biggest priorities of the Natural Resources Committee.

The LWCF receives its funding from oil revenues generated off the coast of States like Louisiana, my home State. On the very same day that the Natural Resources Committee marked up these bills to ban offshore oil and gas exploration, the committee marked up another bill to permanently fund the LWCF. The majority wants to see mandatory spending of $900 million per year out of the LWCF, but at the same time, it wants to eliminate completely its funding source. That is just simply nonsense.

Our country is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. We have the right and the God-given resources to create jobs, foster economic growth, and pave the way to an era of American energy dominance. Oppressive policies like the ones before us today have been our own worst enemy, forcing us to rely on foreign nations to meet our energy demands.

We simply can't do that any longer. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Gulf of Mexico test range off Florida is the only thing that is going to keep us from having high energy prices and a reliance on foreign energy, I don't know why that hasn't happened yet. Right now, we are not drilling off the coast of Florida. An energy that is dominant in the world. We are not drilling off the coast of Florida, and we continue to see energy prices dropping.

As my colleague Representative Cas- ton said, 65 percent of Floridians do not want to see drilling off our shores. Madam Chair, if you would like to drill off the coast of Louisiana or South Carolina, I would say have at it, but leave my beloved Florida alone.

There are many reasons to oppose drilling off Florida's shores: our environment, our tourism economy, and our real property values. But I come to the floor today to plead the case for northwest Florida's military mission.

The military activities in Florida support thousands of jobs; it has pumped a fortune into the local economy; and it has generated enormous revenues for local, State, and Federal coffers.

By the way, if you ask any sports fisherman in the region where the best fishing is, he will tell you that it is by the rigs.

I am not here today to argue for what is right for local communities in other States and other regions. I understand that offshore production suffers from what Bastiat called the paradox of the seen and unseen. We see the danger of a blowout like Santa Barbara in 1969 or the Deepwater Horizon in 2010. But what we don't see are the enormous economic benefits generated day in and day out by American energy production or the critical role it plays in our Nation's prosperity.

This is where the national interest must be put ahead of parochial 'not in my backyard' protests. Procedures have been long established to ensure that offshore production can occur alongside commercial fishing, recreation, and, yes, military testing and training. They have proven themselves to be entirely compatible during many decades of practical experience.

Indeed, one of the many ironies of this NIMBY movement is that commercial fishing and military operations are
highly dependent on precisely the abundant and affordable petroleum produced by offshore drilling, so too, by the way, is the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Offshore production is the main funding source for this program, and another shortsighted irony is that the same markup that produced this bill to shut down offshore production off the Florida coast also permanently reauthorizes the very fund that depends on offshore production for its very existence.

If the Congress were to enact a permanent moratorium on production for one part of our coastline, it begs the question: Why are some people more equal than others?

Madam Chair, we are all advocates for our local districts, and the bill’s author is an able and respected advocate for his. But our collective responsibility as Congress is not to local interests but to the national interest, and it is in the national interest that our Nation is energy independent, prosperous, and strong. This bill undermines these vital national objectives.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For the record, this bill will not affect LWCF funds at all. All the money for the fund comes from existing oil and gas activities in the central and western Gulf of Mexico. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is credited with the first $900 million in offshore revenue. For the last year, those revenues were $4.7 billion, and projections are that existing activity in the Gulf of Mexico is enough to keep the fund going for a long, long time.

We don’t need to drill in the Atlantic or the Pacific or near Florida to find more money. Revenues are not a problem. The real problem is that only twice in the history of the fund has Congress appropriated the full $900 million that it should get. In fact, over time, we have collected $37.8 billion of revenue, $150 million to the Historic Preservation Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); the Reclamation Fund; $970 million to the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act; $1.22 billion to the individual Indian mineral owners; $1.78 billion was disbursed to 35 States. Additionally, more than $1 billion was distributed amongst the individual Indian mineral owners; $1.22 billion to the Reclamation Fund; $65 billion to Alaska.

Next week, the House of Representatives is expected to consider legislation undercutting domestic energy security and economic
opportunity by limiting American energy ac-
cess. We urge you to reject these bills and in-
stead stand up for energy produced in Amer-
ican families.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council, American
Council of Engineering Companies, American
Forest & Paper Association, American Gas
Association, American Iron and Steel Insti-
tute, American Petroleum Institute, Ameri-
can Pipeline Contractors Association, Con-
sumer Energy Alliance, Distribution Pipe-
line Contractors Association, Energy Equip-
ment and Infrastructure Alliance, Inde-
pendent Petroleum Association of America.

International Union of Drilling Contrac-
tors, International Association of Geo-
physical Contractors, Laborers’ Inter-
national Union of North America, National
Association of Manufacturers, National
Ocean Industries Association, National Util-
ity Contractors Association, Offshore Marine
Service Association, Portland Cement Asso-
ciation, Power and Communication Contrac-
tors Association, U.S. Chamber of Com-
merce, U.S. Oil and Gas Association.

LIUNA,

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEAD-
ER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the 500,000
members of the Laborers’ International Union of
North America (LIUNA), I want to express
our opposition to H.R. 205, which would per-
manently extend the moratorium on oil and gas
leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; H.R.
1146, to once again prohibit oil and gas
leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refu-
gee (ANWR); and, H.R. 191, which would bar
offshore drilling along the Atlantic and Pa-
cific Coasts.

Once again, jobs of LIUNA members who
work in the energy sector are being targeted
for elimination by environmental radicals for
purely political purposes. There is abso-
lutely no chance for these “message bills” to be
enacted into law this Congress. So, in-
stead, I want to express our objection to these
bills in real job creating infrastructure legisla-
tion, union members see their jobs once again being denigrated and belittled.

Energy independence is central to the fu-
ture of the American economy and our stan-
dard of living. Unfortunately, the en-
emies of job creation continue to try to wall
off and strangle our domestic energy resources
from development; killing jobs, prolonging
our energy dependence on unfriendly foreign
regimes, and saddling middle-class and
lower-income families with rising energy
costs.

LIUNA members, in Alaska and elsewhere,
know first-hand that when done responsibly,
with the right technologies, energy develop-
ment can coexist with environmental steward-
ship. LIUNA and the other building trades un-
ions invest significant resources into the training of our members that help
develop the knowledge and skills they need to
work safely and productively while con-
structing energy and other infrastructure to the
highest standards.

For the hard-working members of LIUNA
and other building trades unions, these jobs put food on their families’ tables and roofs
over their heads. These jobs enable them to
put their children through college, to save
for retirement, and to spend money in busi-
nesses and communities they employ others.

I urge you to vote against these ill-con-
ceived bills.

With kind regards,
I am
TERRI O’SULLIVAN,
General President.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I
reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I con-
tinue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I
yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisi-
adia.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair,
I thank the ranking member for the recog-
nition to talk about this legis-
lation.

Madam Chair, we are talking about legis-
lation that has to do with energy policy and
energy production. We are talking about the
goals here, as I heard different speakers talk about

protecting our fisheries and our environ-
ment. I heard speakers talk about pro-

tecting our military mission, those
military ships, submarines, and that

military edge and the technology we have.
I heard people talking about jobs and
the threat of spills.

Madam Chair, I support those objec-
tives, and I know that this may sound counterintuitive: This bill undermines
the very objectives that it is purported to
advance. Let’s go through them.

Let’s go through those things.

Number one, talking about the envi-

ronment, that this bill will cause dam-
gage to the environment and it will un-
dermine ecological productivity.

Madam Chair, if you take a look at
this graphic right here, you probably think
this is where energy infrastruc-
ture is. You probably think that is
what this is. This depicts the intensity
of energy infrastructure in the Gulf of
Mexico from the Texas coast to right
there in Alabama.

In reality, oh, my goodness, look at
that, if it is not red snapper landings.
This is actually where the fish are.
This shows farther out of where the
fish are. This actually increases eco-

logical productivity by creating habi-
tat for fisheries.

I heard a speaker on the other side
talk about how there was devastation of
fisheries in the State of Florida after
the spill, in 2010. In 2011, the
State of Florida had 117 million
pounds of fisheries. In 2011, that was
more than the fisheries they produced
in the most recent year recorded. Let
me say that again. In the immediate
aftermath of the spill, in 2011, there
were more fisheries landed worth more
money than there was in the most re-
cent year recorded, which is 2017.

I hate to sit here and continue to un-
dermine all these narratives, but let’s
go on.

We are saying that this bill is de-
signed to protect our environment. Ac-
tually, Madam Chair, you can look at
statistics, and as far as I understand,
they use cars and airplanes and have
air-conditioning in Florida. That re-
quires oil and gas. Since you are pro-
ducing it and need it, the safest way to
transport is to produce it domestically
and then put it in a pipeline. That is
not my statistic; it is from the Na-
tional Research Council.

Once again, Madam Chair, you are not
protecting habitat; you are actu-
ally preventing habitat from being es-

tablished. You are not helping ecologi-

cal productivity; you are undermining

that.

That was a boat.

Let’s go to the other one, the

military. I heard a speaker say: Oh, we
can’t have energy production here be-
cause that is going to prevent our abil-

ity to fly and practice with weapons in
the Gulf of Mexico.

Madam Chair, when we go into war
and go up against adversaries, do we
say: Hey, we need you to take that
building down so my missile can shoot
straight in?

No. That is absurd. You operate
under real conditions, which includes,
in some cases, obstructions.

I want to make reference here that
we are talking about thousands and

thousands and thousands of square miles. You can produce here with very,
very little surface infrastructure. Most
of it is subsea, having zero impact.

□ 1530

Now, Madam Chair, I heard somebody
talking earlier about 2006 and how Con-
gress stepped in and provided a morato-
rium. Yes. But do you know what that
moratorium is provided in exchange for?
Moving the Military Mission Line to
the east.

There was an agreement. The 181
leasing areas, that was agreed to. We
actually added more production areas
in exchange for a temporary morato-
rium. But what is being proposed now is
a greater threat to the environment.
H.R. 1456 is putting a moratorium in place,
and it is not doing any type of balance.

We can step in and protect our mili-
tary mission, we can protect our envi-
ronment, and we can have jobs and
energy production in the United States.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. WASSERMAN
SCHULTZ). The time of the gentleman
has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I
yield an additional 2 minutes to the
gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam
Chair, I also heard talk about the Land
and Conservation Water Fund and, yes,
the irony of the fact that there is legis-
lation that the chair pushed that per-
manently authorizes the Land and
Water Conservation Fund. Legislation
moving it permanently funds it at $900
million; $150 million a year goes to the
Historic Preservation Fund.

But in reality, the Land and Water
Conservation Fund is not limited to
$900 million. It is not. I have heard peo-
lple talk about it being $2 billion over and over again. That is
not accurate.

There is an additional 12.5 percent
that comes from revenue sharing that

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also goes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, putting it over $1 billion a year. Plus, you add $150 million from the Historic Preservation Fund.

Plus, just to put it in perspective, Madam Chair, when you add up just between 2011 and 2016, $55 billion—$55 billion—was generated for the U.S. Treasury from energy production on Federal lands and waters.

Madam Chair, that doesn’t just fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund. That funds our veterans’ benefits. It funds environmental programs. It funds healthcare for our elderly. It funds early childhood education. It funds infrastructure.

This, according to the Government Accountability Office, is one of the largest nontaxed streams of revenue. And we are talking about stopping it. Production doesn’t go on in perpetuity. You need additional layers. It takes 10 years to go from leasing to production, so we have got to start planning now to produce safely to ensure we can continue to have a vibrant economy, jobs, to continue having a safe environment.

This bill undermines the very objectives that it was purposed to advance. Madam Chair, I urge objection to this uninformed legislation.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, as a point of reference, the BP oil spill cost the fishing industry at least, at the minimum, $91.7 million and, at the maximum, $1.6 billion in 2010. I mention that because, you know, oil spills are not necessarily good for fisheries in the long haul.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), ranking member, for some time to speak in opposition to this bill.

Madam Chair, like the previous legislation, this bill represents a step backwards in ensuring American energy security, but making certain sections of the eastern Gulf of Mexico permanently off limits to oil and gas development, this legislation once again ties one hand behind our Nation’s back.

As chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and the ranking member of the House Committee on Natural Resources Committee on Energy and Mineral Resources, I have a unique insight into many of America’s energy issues.

Many on the Western Caucus and Republican members on the Committee on Natural Resources have a different vision for America, a vision that doesn’t pick winners and losers and includes a true all-of-the-above energy strategy that embraces wind, solar, nuclear, hydropower, coal, oil, and natural gas. Our vision encourages innovation, and I have heard some of the most ground-breaking ideas in Congress.

We know responsible energy production and protecting our environment go hand in hand.

The offshore coalition, a group of at least 17 members, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Laborers’ International Union of North America, sent a letter opposing H.R. 205, H.R. 1941, and H.R. 1146. In the coalition’s letter, they state: “For more than seven decades, energy development in the Gulf of Mexico has worked collaboratively alongside tourism, fishing, and Defense Department training activities. But H.R. 205 would permanently extend the eastern Gulf of Mexico moratorium on oil and natural gas activities.

“We rely on American-made energy to power our daily lives, communities, and to grow a prosperous future. Americans deserve clean, safe, reliable, abundant, and affordable energy so that our families, communities, and businesses can all share the opportunities American energy creates.

“Our country cannot afford to block access to new energy supplies and risk losing our energy advantage. That’s why we ask you to oppose legislation being considered by the U.S. House of Representatives this week that would slow scientific surveys and prevent access to new sources of American offshore energy in the Outer Continental Shelf.”

Our previous speaker actually alluded to this very aspect. It takes 10 years to go from inquiry to actual production. I couldn’t agree more with the sentiments expressed by this broad coalition by previous Members here on this side of the aisle that have opposed it, and I urge Members to oppose H.R. 205.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the debate that we have had on this particular bill—kind of.

Florida does have the right to do whatever it wishes to do on its property and on its State lands and State waters, and they should have the right to do it unless there is some kind of impact to Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi, in which case, them doing something strictly for Florida’s purposes that doesn’t take into account the other States is wrong-minded.

But for this particular bill, we are really not talking about the economy and the tourism and everything else. This bill is about a military line and military issues.

As I have stated earlier, yes, there are military positions in Florida. There is a military testing training range on the water, which is not as good as the land-based one but is on the water in Florida.

Those are there and they deserve to be protected, and when the military wants those things set aside without any kind of disturbance, that is logical. That is limited. That is logical, and it is something we should approve, which is why this issue should not be a bill before us. This bill should have been decided as part of the NDAA.

But the question here is: Is everything on this arbitrary line that was drawn here on this side of the aisle that has opposed it—kind of.

It should be the military that makes that decision; and, I am sorry, in the past, they have simply said, no, they don’t need it all. So, if we are wise, if we were really doing the right thing for this country, if we were really doing the right thing on this issue, we would simply say the military can excuse what the military needs; and what they don’t need should be allowed to be open for other kinds of exploration that could benefit Mississippi and Alabama and New Orleans and Texas, because they happen to be closer to the line than Florida is. That is the right thing to do.

We should have an arbitrary rule that just says to take the ruler and make the damn line down the middle of the map. That is wrong. That is a violation of everything that is logical. That is a violation of everything that is scientific that we should do. That is a violation of even taking away the ability of the military to make decisions for themselves. That is why this is a failed opportunity on our part.

Had the Rules Committee simply decided to take more rules into effect, we could have modified this bill to make it something that almost everybody in this room could have accepted. But the Rules Committee refused to do that. For whatever political purposes they had in mind, they simply refused to do that.

So, we have the option of instead of doing a bill that is the right thing to do and a good thing to do, we have a bill that is going to be questionable here. It is going to be questionable in the Senate. It is going to be questionable on the deck.

We could have done the right thing. We should have done the right thing.

Hopefully, before this bill is all the way through the system, we will do the right thing. But for that, this is a failed opportunity, and I do blame the Rules Committee for refusing to try and expand the discussion so we could actually make a bill that is viable.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the opportunity and all those who have spoken on this bill. I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I thought I would close by talking a little bit about, because it has to do to the discussion we are having today, protecting these very valuable coastal areas in this country. My Republican colleagues introduced the American Energy First Act today, and, frankly, it is quite frightening. It is really the “Earth isn’t burning fast enough” legislation, as I like to call it.

America is already the number one producer of oil and gas in the world.
This administration is lifting protections on hundreds of millions of acres of public lands for even more drilling. Our Republican colleagues feel that is not enough. It is never enough for them. For them, President Trump’s extreme environmental antiliberal agenda needs to be pushed even further. They are rolling out a bill to give even more money away to their oil and gas polluter friends.

This Republican bill that was introduced by the majority would force the Florida Gulf Coast for offshore oil and gas, let States decide where energy development should happen on Federal public lands, gut Federal regulation, shorten environmental review times, give vast amounts of public money to four States in the Gulf of Mexico, and make Americans pay if they wanted to object to a government decision.

Think about it. Right now, oil and gas companies get to nominate public lands for leasing without paying a dime. If Republicans had their way, oil and gas companies would keep the free ride, and anyone who wants to protest a lease would have to pay a fee to challenge them.

These ideas are destructive, and they couldn’t even pass in an all-Republican government. Nearly all of this legislation was introduced in various forms by Republicans in the last Congress when they controlled everything: the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Presidency. But the bills that were introduced today are so pro-polluter, so backwards-looking, they weren’t able to pass them in the House under Republican control.

If my House colleagues just can’t or won’t take climate change seriously, then we shouldn’t take this bill seriously at all. The American people want us to act on climate. They reject the Trump administration’s pro-polluter agenda. That is why we are voting to protect our coasts today, and that is why I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 205.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Acting CHAIR. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.


The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the gentleman from Florida’s (Mr. Crist) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRIST. Madam Chair, I was Governor of Florida in 2010 when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded off the coast of Louisiana. It killed 11 people and sent millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

I witnessed firsthand the tar balls on our beaches, the marine life drowning in oil, and the billions of dollars of economic damage inflicted on countless families and small businesses.

As the largest offshore oil spill in American history, this should have been a huge wake-up call to everyone. Floridians said never again and voted almost 70 percent in the last election to ban offshore drilling because, as we learned, drilling doesn’t have to take place right off our shores to impact our way of life.

My amendment is simple. It reinstates two critical rules regarding offshore drilling and safety regulations,

SEC. 2. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM ON LEASING IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO.

Section 104(a) of the Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note) is amended by striking “Effective during” and all that follows through “the Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (5) annually, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (6) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days after billing.”

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ‘‘Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation’’ for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CRIST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116–200.

Mr. CRIST. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 3. PRODUCTION SAFETY SYSTEMS AND WELL CONTROL.

Subparagraphs D, E, F, G, H, and Q of section 250 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2018), shall have the same force and effect of law as if such subparagraphs had been enacted by an Act of Congress.

Page 1, line 11, strike “3” and insert “4”.

Page 5, line 5, strike “4” and insert “5”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 6, I now recognize the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Crist) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRIST. Madam Chair, I was Governor of Florida in 2010 when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded off the coast of Louisiana. It killed 11 people and sent millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

I witnessed firsthand the tar balls on our beaches, the marine life drowning in oil, and the billions of dollars of economic damage inflicted on countless families and small businesses.

As the largest offshore oil spill in American history, this should have been a huge wake-up call to everyone. Floridians said never again and voted almost 70 percent in the last election to ban offshore drilling because, as we learned, drilling doesn’t have to take place right off our shores to impact our way of life.

My amendment is simple. It reinstates two critical rules regarding offshore drilling and safety regulations,
the Well Control Rule and the Production Safety Systems Rule, that were put into place after the Deepwater Horizon disaster itself.

Sadly, the current administration has chosen to ignore the mistakes of our past and has, instead, weakened the original regulatory rules. So, in fact, the practice is nothing new.

In the Obama administration, they approved these measures more than the current administration is doing it. The average during the Obama administration was roughly four times per day. The current administration does it roughly 2.3 times per day.

BSEE isn’t allowing oil companies to get away with not complying with the well control rule. They have simply found a better way of doing it.

To codify this rule the way it was before takes away the flexibility and the ability to use technology and new ideas and new science to come up with a better way of solving the problem.

This amendment does great harm not only to the people, what is necessary to this bill, which ought to be about the military line, simply means, were this to pass, this amendment would make it more difficult for the ultimate bill to reach a solution in the Senate.

It is obvious that the witnesses have found a better way of doing it. It should have been on the earlier one. It is an amendment that is not needed.

It is an amendment that moves us back. It is an amendment that takes out of the administration the ability, simple, to do things the right way. If they can find a better way of doing it, let the administration, at any time, authorize that better way of doing the well control protection rule.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRIST. Madam Chair, first, I thank the chairman for his support of the bill. I appreciate that very much.

In response to my colleague from Utah, Mr. PRICE, I thank the gentleman for his thoughtful and necessary amendment that will restore offshore drilling regulations and that will reduce the risks the Gulf communities face from offshore development.

Madam Chair, I yield him for that, and I very much support the amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. The administration, rightfully, took a second look at the well control and production safety system rule that was implemented by the Obama administration. They didn’t make a whole lot of changes. About a 17 percent change to the overall rule was all that was done there.

But the colleagues that I have heard and, also, those in the press who have talked about the well control leadership on the House side have been opposed to the revised rules because they erroneously argue that they allow BSEE to issue the so-called waivers to oil companies that give them a free pass to comply with the well control rule. In reality, that just is not what is happening.

The rule allows BSEE to approve alternative compliance measures for companies that can prove there is a better way of handling a particular requirement that is at least as safe as the original regulatory rules were. So, in fact, the practice is nothing new.

About a 17 percent change to the over-all rule was all that was done there.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment so that no State ever has to endure another Deepwater Horizon spill. We must do everything in our power to make sure that history does not repeat itself.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment the way that so that no State ever has to endure another Deepwater Horizon spill. We must do everything in our power to make sure that history does not repeat itself.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PRICE), for their tireless efforts to support the regulations.

Finally, on behalf of Florida’s 13th District, I give my heartfelt thanks to the distinguished bipartisan colleagues from Florida, Representative CASTOR and Representative ROONEY, for their tireless development on the underlying bill to keep drilling out of the eastern Gulf of Mexico for good.

In a perfect world, we wouldn’t have to drill at all. But as long as drilling does occur in the western and central Gulf, it is impossible to keep the Deepwater Horizon spill, we must do everything in our power to make sure that history does not repeat itself.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment so that no State ever has to endure another Deepwater Horizon spill. We must do everything in our power to make sure that history does not repeat itself.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I yield him for that, and I very much support the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGAN) is offered in this amendment.

Ms. BARRAGAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5. STUDY ON BSEE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Interior shall contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to complete, not later than 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the study entitled “Review and Update of Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Offshore Oil and Gas Operations Inspection Program,” that the Secretary of the Interior previously contracted with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to complete.

As this body may remember, in December 2017, the administration placed a stop-work order on a critical study of the inspections program for offshore oil and gas operations, in an attempt to delay the study and alter its management.

The administration later changed its mind and resumed the study, but it didn’t mean the administration can’t change its mind again and halt it or take away the study from the National Academy of Sciences and contract it to an oil and gas industry-friendly entity.

We can’t take that chance because this study is too critical. For example, this study ensures that vital aspects of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement’s regulatory mission are being met.

The study would evaluate the Bureau’s current risk assessment inspection process and provide recommendations for its improvement. It will also evaluate and migrate best practices into the Bureau’s inspection protocols.

Lastly, it will assess the potential role of safety-enhancing technologies, such as remote and real-time monitoring.

In short, it will assess the use of emerging technologies, potential risks,
and improved safety and environmental protection practices.

Our coast needs these protections. My amendment will ensure the study remains operational and in the objective and trustworthy hands of the National Academy of Sciences.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to help protect our oceans and support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I don’t want to try to be snarky on these kinds of amendments, but it is already being done.

It is a nice concept. It was stopped, but it has also started again. So this calls for a study to continue and resume. They have already done it.

Back in October, in the Department of the Interior, they already resumed the meetings. They are ongoing. Everything you want is actually happening. I think a better study may be figuring out how five noes can be outweighed by three ayes. Nonetheless, this is a redundant amendment because it is already happening.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Chair, the bottom line is this administration cannot be trusted when it comes to protecting the coastline.

This administration already issued a stop order and changed its mind. Again, there is nothing to prevent this administration from changing its mind again or, as I mentioned, from taking it away from the National Academy of Sciences.

The amendment just ensures that the study remains operational and in the hands of the National Academy of Sciences so that there can’t be a change. This is a protection we need for the coast.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I am going to end with the final conclusion, again, that it is a redundancy because it is already being done.

Why don’t you just mandate that everything we are doing in every other department be done at the same time. It would have the same kind of impact, the same kind of effect. It is cute, but it is not for the job.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I request unanimous consent that my amendment be modified in the form I have placed at the desk.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified in the form I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. GOSAR:

Strike “Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service” and insert “Secretary of Labor”.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman of Arizona?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that allows the section 2 moratorium in this bill to go into effect when the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Labor, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs.

We heard arguments from the Democratic Members on the other side of the aisle against a similar amendment, that this amendment doesn’t matter and is meaningless. How callous that response.

I tell opponents of this amendment to tell that single mother working to put food on the table for her two children that her job doesn’t matter. How about the minority family who just moved into a new neighborhood so their kids can go to better schools? Tell those hardworking, minority parents that those jobs don’t matter either.

Under the current administration, unemployment has reached record lows. In August, the national unemployment rate sat at 3.7 percent, with the unemployment rate for African American workers sitting at 5.5 percent, breaking the previous record of 5.9 percent set in May 2018.

According to a recent report by The Washington Post—once again, the bastion of conservative reporting—nearly 90 percent of the jobs added under this administration has gone to minority communities. This can be attributed to, for the first time, a majority of new hires are people between the ages of 25 to 54 and are from minority communities.

According to statistics published by the Center for Peterson Institute, minorities will comprise one-third of the total workforce in the oil and gas sector by 2030. Women already comprise more than 15 percent of the oil and gas workforce.

These are good-paying jobs, paying $90,000, that hardworking families depend upon. This legislation puts these employment opportunities at risk by permanently putting off-limits potentially viable and valuable offshore energy opportunities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

For the first time since the 1950s, the United States will soon be a net exporter of oil and natural gas, something that was once unthinkable. America’s energy renaissance has boosted the economies of previously left-behind towns throughout the country and turned them into vibrant communities.

Madam Chair, this is a commonsense amendment that protects minority and women jobs and puts the interests of the American workforce first. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, first of all, let’s start with the premise here. The premise of protecting jobs for women and people of color is a laudable one. But on the eastern coast, at this point, there are no jobs to lose or, more precisely, there are no jobs. If there was to be any activity, it would be when the moratorium would be lifted in 2022.

The point of this amendment has nothing to do with the job market. It is simply an attempt to block protections for the eastern Gulf based on a false concern for jobs for women and people of color.

I recall the hearing we had yesterday about the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management reorganization and its transfer of central activities to Grand Junction, Colorado. In that, the majority asked the question: What about the retention of senior, female, and of-color staff in this move? How many are we going to lose? Do they need to be protected?

At the hearing, the minority Members told us that was not an issue, that we shouldn’t worry about it, that nothing was going to be lost and everything was going to be protected.

Here we have the issue being raised again, but from another perspective. I believe that enacting this bill and protecting Florida’s shore from the dangers of offshore drilling will safeguard
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The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 182, noes 251, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 520]

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, again, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to think of that single mother who is working to put food on the table for her two children. Tell her that her job doesn’t matter.

Again, think of the minority family that just moved into a new neighborhood so their kids could go to better schools. Tell those working minorities, those parents that their jobs don’t matter.

Think of the statistics that we repeated and looked at from no less, The Washington Post. These are real jobs. They are helping real people. They are part of a real economy, an economy that needs all of the above.

Once again, we can have tourism, we can have clean energy production and protect the environment, and we can have the good-paying jobs that are empowering women and minorities.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, again, the amendment is not necessary, and it is an attempt to delay and to put further risk to the Florida Gulf Coast, and I urge its defeat.

Most importantly, I think concrete, policy initiatives to enhance opportunities for women and people of color in this country are something this Congress should undertake as a whole. But crocodile tears on this particular piece of legislation and this amendment aren’t going to do it.

I urge opposition. I urge its defeat.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.
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Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Bishop of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Acting Chair of the Committee on the House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 205) to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and, pursuant to House Resolution 548, 548, having voted on the amendments to the bill, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gross.

The amendments were agreed to.

The Speaker pro tempore. The minimum time for any electronic vote in this series is five minutes.

Mr. Bishop of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. Bishop of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. Gosar of Arizona.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. Gosar of Arizona.

The Chair will redesignate the table.

The Acting Chair. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part F of House Report 116–200, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Rouda), had been disposed of.

Mr. Webster of Florida (Ms. Wasserman Schultz) kindly take the chair.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 558 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1941.

Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Wasserman Schultz) kindly take the chair.

In the Committee of the Whole.

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1941) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, with Ms. Wasserman Schultz (Acting Chair) in the Chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting Chair. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 8 printed in part F of House Report 116–200, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Rouda), had been disposed of.

Announcement by the Acting Chair.

The Acting Chair. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part F of House Report 116–200 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. Gosar of Arizona.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. Gosar of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time on which any electronic vote in this series.

 Amendment No. 2 Offered by Mr. Gosar of Arizona.

The Acting Chair. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Gosar) on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 Offered by Mr. Gosar of Arizona.

The Chair will redesignate the amendment.
Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. PRESSLEY changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting Chair. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Gosar) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignated the amendment.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to recommit is about gasoline prices. A tax on every American family’s disposable income of your coastal ecosystem and the resiliency of your communities. Madam Speaker, when you look at the statistics, in 2017, California produced about 296 million pounds of seafood; the State of Florida, about 111 million pounds; the State of South Carolina, about 10.5 million pounds. Louisiana, which has four times more energy production in the offshore than all other States combined, we produced 90 times that of South Carolina, or 900 million pounds of seafood, valued at more than $360 million.

In addition, these funds go toward— the revenue sharing under offshore energy production, what happens when a hurricane hits?”

In regard to creating jobs, when President Obama was in office in 2011, one-half of this Nation’s trade deficit, one-half, was attributable to us importing oil from other countries. Those countries do not have the safety record, the safety regime we have in the United States. A BOEM report says emissions could increase in the absence of a new OCS leasing program. Madam Speaker, that was a report under the Obama administration. This bill does just that. It prevents energy production, what happens when a hurricane comes in and devastates one-half of this Nation’s trade deficit, one-half of this Nation’s trade deficit, one-half, was attributable to us importing oil from other countries. Those countries do not have the safety record, the safety regime we have in the United States.

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money goes to the OPEC cartel rather than the U.S. Treasury. Let me say that again. A run-up in world oil prices effectively attacks every American family's discretionary budget, except that the money goes to the OPEC cartel rather than the U.S. Treasury. Those aren't my words. Those are the words of Senators CANTWELL, MENENDEZ, MARKY, and SCHUMER.

This amendment ensures that this legislation does not result in a disproportionate impact on the poor by raising gasoline prices and energy access to Americans across the board; of course, again, disproportionately impacting those of low income.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit. And as a former ocean engineer, I rise on behalf of the Lowcountry in the First Congressional District of South Carolina.

This motion to recommit wants us to cede more power to our President, but I believe in the Constitution, and I believe in separate but equal branches of government like our Founding Fathers intended.

We, as Members of this institution, have an obligation to not only respond to current events, but also to anticipate future problems and work to prevent them. You don't wait for a bridge to break to fix its foundation, and you don't wait for the hurricane to hit before boarding up your windows, and you don't wait for an oil spill to realize that offshore drilling is just not worth jeopardizing our booming tourism industry.

As my father used to say, the juice is worth over $22 billion. That is at the same sunset, and the same coastal beach.

It doesn't matter what party you believe or are a Republican or a Democrat. This idea that offshore drilling is necessary for the country to achieve energy independence is just a red herring. As President Trump pointed out earlier this year during his State of the Union speech, the United States is now the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world.

President Trump said that, for the first time in 65 years, we are a net exporter of energy. We have managed to make all this energy progress, and all that progress has been made without drilling in the Atlantic and Pacific.

We are sending 3 million barrels of oil overseas every single day. We do not need to put oil rigs in the Atlantic Ocean at all.

Why would we damage our beaches, our God-given natural resources, just to export more oil to other countries? Why would we do that?

To answer that question, we must first answer a more basic question: Why did you come here to serve?

When we see Old Glory, we pledge our allegiance to the flag and to the President, not to a party and not to a President.

This is not a partisan question, so let us not give a partisan answer. Let's defeat this motion to recommit and pass H.R. 194.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the yeas and nays were ordered.

YEAS—194

Yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 194, nays 233, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 524]
The vote was taken by electronic de-

So the motion to recommit was re-

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken: and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-

So the poll was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

U.S. WELOVEU FOUNDATION

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GARCIA of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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There was no objection.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARCIA of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.
help those less fortunate during times of crisis.

I am proud to support the work that they do and hope to praise more organizations like them in the future.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL JAMES COLQUITT AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Knoxville, Tennessee, native, Corporal James Colquitt, an American hero and United States Marine.

Corporal Colquitt joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17. On March 15, 1944, he boarded a train and was sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for recruit training. Corporal Colquitt served as a rifleman with I Company, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division. From February 19 to March 2, 1945, he participated in combat action against the Japanese during the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles of the entire Pacific War.

Corporal Colquitt received a Purple Heart for wounds received during combat operations on March 2, 1945. He was promoted to the rank of corporal and was honorably discharged from Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., on April 26, 1946.

Corporal Colquitt is one of thousands of great men and women who honorably served our country during World War II. After defending our values and freedoms, these brave soldiers returned home, raised families, strengthened communities, and continued the growth of America.

It is my honor to recognize James Colquitt as the Tennessee Second Congressional District’s September 2019 Veteran of the Month and to thank him for his service to our country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the September 11 attacks, and especially those who lost their lives on that day, including people from my own home state in Rhode Island.

I was 8 months into my first term in Congress when our Nation’s course was inexorably altered that blue Tuesday morning. Over the last 18 years, as an inaugural member of the Committee on Homeland Security and as a member of the Committee on Armed Services with oversight over our Special Operations Forces, I devoted myself to ensuring our country is safe.

I know that we have made progress, important progress, and we worked to eliminate terrorist enclaves around the world. We strengthened our security at home so that we are no longer a soft target. We, of course, paid dearly for these gains through the sacrifice of our servicemembers and the tax dollars of our citizens.

However, we still have a long way to go. This summer, Congress, of course, finally enacted, permanently, to protect 9/11 first responders. It is certainly long overdue.

We must also now fulfill our commitments to our veterans returning home from the Global War on Terror. We must protect our country against new and emerging threats, including in the cyber domain. And each year, we must renew our pledge to “never forget.”

IN HONOR OF MELINDA “MINDY” GENE PICCOTTI

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H.R. 4279, to name the post office in Laceyville, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, after Melinda “Mindy” Gene Piccotti.

A native of Pennsylvania’s 12th Congressional District, Mindy was an Air Force veteran who knew the struggles combat veterans and wounded soldiers face when returning home from duty.

Starting in 2009, at the age of 60, Mindy highlighted her commitment to our Nation’s Armed Forces by creating Hunts for Healing, based out of Laceyville.

Mindy founded Hunts for Healing to help wounded soldiers returning from military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat areas transition back into civilian life by allowing them to experience the joys of hunting, including social interaction and camaraderie.

With the assistance of volunteer guides and funded entirely by private donations, Hunts for Healing helps veterans in need of physical, spiritual, and emotional support.

For the impact of her life and for her continued legacy in the veterans’ community, I urge Members to support H.R. 4279 and name the post office in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, for Melinda “Mindy” Gene Piccotti.

RECOGNIZING JAKOB ZERNICK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable young man, Jakob Zernick, from Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

Jakob is a 13-year-old with a green thumb who started his own nonprofit called Seedz 4 Needz.

Jakob grows celery, Brussels sprouts, potatoes, and more to support the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he has been receiving treatment for Crohn’s disease for the last 5 years.

Jakob sells his produce at a vegetable stand outside his home in Ebensburg and uses the money to purchase toys, games, books, and more items to gift to children who are patients at the hospital.

According to Jakob, he is projected to raise $10,000 this year to benefit the Children’s Hospital. His efforts have been recognized by the community, and Jakob’s neighbors have been incredibly supportive, offering their own donations as well.

Most notably, Saint Francis University of Loretto, Pennsylvania, donated a $1,000 check to Seedz 4 Needz to help Jakob continue his mission.

I am proud of the work that Jakob has done, and I look forward to seeing Seedz 4 Needz grow.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIET EMAN

(Mr. HUIZENGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a very special hero who risked his life to care for others and left a remarkable legacy.

Diet Eman was a longtime west Michigan resident who was born and
raised in the Netherlands. At 20 years old, she found herself in the middle of the crisis that had overtaken Europe during World War II.

Recognizing the injustices against the Jewish people in Holland, Diet and her fiancé, Hein Sietsma, formed the Dutch resistance group called “Help Elkander in Nood,” which means “helping each other in need.”

Throughout the course of the war, Diet organized shelters and provided assistance to Jews in need, reported on German troop movements, and helped downed Allied pilots. Eventually, she was actually captured by the Germans and spent 3 months in a concentration camp. However, her spirit and will could not be broken, and she outsmarted her interrogators, bluffed her captors into releasing her, and quickly returned to her work within the resistance movement.

Diet was personally recognized by President Eisenhower for her contributions, as well as by Dutch King Willem-Alexander, who deemed her a national hero for her courage and sacrifice.

Meeting her in person last year was a very special memory for me and my entire family. Diet never wavered in taking a stand for what is noble and lived a life full of bravery, compassion, and purpose.

Through her efforts, Diet helped change the world and make it a better place.

May her memory be eternal.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 18th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on our Nation.

I want to thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus chairs, Representatives Jayapal and Pocan, and the Special Order conveners, Representatives Porter and Tlaib, for inviting us to use this time to commemorate this solemn anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

I am deeply grateful to my colleagues who have supported the recovery over the years and, most recently, for the overwhelming support with a vote of 402-12 to fund and make permanent the Victim Compensation Fund.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m., the first tower of the World Trade Center was struck. At 9:03, the second tower was struck. At 9:37, the Pentagon was hit. And, at 10:03, the fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the name of every person who perished in that attack.

Gordon M. Aamothe, Jr.
Edelmiro Abad

Marie Rose Abad
Andrew Anthony Abate
Vincent Paul Abate
Laurence Christopher Abel
Alona Abraham
William F. Abrahamson
Richard Anthony Aceto
Heinrich Bernhard Ackermann
Paul Acquaviva
Christian Adams
Donald LaRoy Adams
Patrick Adams
Shannon Lewis Adams
Stephen George Adams
Ignatius Udo Adanga
Christy A. Addamo
Terence Edward Adderley, Jr.
Sophia B. Addo
Lee Adler
Daniel Thomas Afflitto
Emmanuel Akwasi Afuakwah
Alok Agarwal
Mukul Kumar Agarwala
Joseph Agnello
David Scott Agnes
Joao Alberto da Fonseca Aguiar, Jr.
Brian G. Ahearne
Jeremiah Joseph Ahern
Joanne Marie Ahdadiotis
Shabir Ahmed
Terrance Andre Aiken
Godwin O. Ajala
Trudi M. Aliagero
Andrew Alameno
Margaret Ann Alario
Gary M. Albero
Jon Leslie Albert
Peter Craig Alderman
Jacquelyn Delaine Aldridge-Frederick
David D. Alger
Ernest Alikakos
Edward L. Allegretto
Eric Allen
Joseph Ryan Allen
Richard Dennis Allen
Richard L. Allen
Christopher E. Allingham
Anna S. W. Allison
Janet Marie Alonso
Anthony Alvarado
Antonio Javier Alvarez
Victoria Alvarez-Brito
Telmo E. Alvear
Cesar Amoranto Alviar
Tariq Amanullah
Angelo Amaranto
James M. Amato
Joseph Amatuccio
Paul W. Ambrose
Christopher Charles Amoroso
Craig Scott Amundson
Kazuhiko Anai
Calixto Anaya, Jr.
Joseph P. Anchundia
Kermit Charles Anderson
Yvette Constance Anderson
John Jack Andreacchio
Michael Rourke Andrews
Jean Ann Andrucki
Siew-Nya Ang
Joseph Angelini, Sr.
Joseph John Angelini, Jr.
David Lawrence Angell
Mary Lynn Edwards Angell
Laura Angletta
Doreen J. Angrisani
Lorraine Antigua
Selma David Aoyama

Peter Paul Apollo
Faustino Apostol, Jr.
Frank Thomas Aquilino
Patrick Michael Aranyos
David Gregory Arce
Michael George Arczynski
Louis Arenz
Barbara Jean Arestegui
Adam P. Arias
Michael J. Armstrong
Jack Charles Aron
Joshua Todd Aron
Richard Averny Aronow
Myra Joy Aronson
Japhet Jesse Aryee
Carl Francis Asaro
Michael A. Asciak
Michael Edward Asher
Janice Marie Ashley
Thomas J. Ashton
Manuel O. Asistimay
Gregg A. Atlas
Gerald Thomas Atwood
James Audiffred
Louis F. Aversano, Jr.
Ezra Aviles
Sandy Ayala
Arlene T. Babaktilts
Eustace R. Bacchus
John J. Badagliacca
Jane Ellen Baezler
Robert J. Baierswalter
Andrew J. Bailey
Brett T. Bailey
Gamet Ace Bailey
Tatyana Bakalinskaya
Michael S. Baksh
Sharon M. Balkom
Michael Andrew Bane
Katherine Bantis
Gerard Baptiste
Walter Baran
Gerard A. Barbara
Paul Vincent Barbaro
James William Barbeila
Victor Daniel Barbosa
Christine Johnna Barbuto
Colleen Ann Barkow
David Michael Barkway
Matthew Barnes
Melissa Rose Barnes
Sheila Patricia Barnes
Evan Jay Baron
Renée Barrett-Arjune
Arthur Thaddeus Barry
Diane G. Barry
Maurice Vincent Barry
Scott D. Bart
Carlton W. Bartels
Guy Barzvi
Inna B. Basina
Alysia Christine Burton Basmajian
Kenneth William Basnicki
Steven Joseph Bates
Paul James Battaglia
W. David Bauer
Ivhan Luis Carpio Bautista
Marilyn Caprio Bautista
Mark Lawrence Bavis
Jasper Baxter
Lorraine G. Bay
Michele Beale
Todd M. Beamer
Paul Frederick Beatini
Jane S. Beatty
Alan Anthony Beaven
Lawrence Ira Beck
Manette Marie Beckles
Ana Fosteris
Robert Joseph Foti
Jeffrey Fox
Virginia Elizabeth Fox
Pauline Francis
Virgin Lucy Francis
Gary Jay Frank
Morton H. Frank
Peter Christopher Frank
Colleen L. Fraser
Richard K. Fraser
Kevin J. Frawley
Clyde Frazier, Jr.
Lillian Inez Frederick
Andrew Fredericks
Tamitha Freeman
Brett Owen Freiman
Peter L. Freund
Arlene Eva Fried
Alan W. Friedlander
Andrew Keith Friedman
Paul J. Friedman
Gregg J. Froehner
Lisa Anne Frost
Peter Christian Fry
Stefan A. Fumando
Steven Elliot Furman
Paul James Furman
Karlton Douglas Beye Fyfe
G Fredric Neal Gabler
Richard Peter Gabriel
Richard S. Gabrielle
James Andrew Gadiel
Pamela Lee Gaff
Ervin Vincent Gailliard
Deanna Lynn Galante and her unborn child
Grace Catherine Galante
Anthony Edward Gallagher
Daniel James Gallagher
John Patrick Gallagher
Lourdes J. Galletti
Cono E. Gallo
Vincent Gallucci
Thomas E. Galvin
Giovanna Galletta Gambale
Thomas Gambino, Jr.
Giann F. Gamboa
Ronald L. Gamboa
Peter James Ganci, Jr.
Michael Gann
Charles William Garbarini
Andrew Sonny Garcia
Cesar R. Garcia
David Garcia
Jorge Luis Morron Garcia
Juan Garcia
Marlyn Del Carmen Garcia
Christopher Samuel Gardner
Douglas Benjamin Gardner
Harvey Joseph Gardner III
Jeffrey Brian Gardner
Thomas A. Gardner
William Arthur Gardner
Frank Garfi
Rocco Nino Gargano
James M. Gartenberg
Matthew David Garvey
Bruce Cary
Boyd Alan Gatton
Donald Richard Gavagan, Jr.
Peter Alan Gay
Terence D. Gazzani
Gary Paul Geidel
Paul Holland Geier
Julie M. Geis
Peter Gerard Gelinas
Steven Paul Geller
Howard G. Gelling, Jr.
Peter Victor Genco, Jr.
Steven Gregory Genovese
Alayne Gentul
Linda M. George
Edward F. Geraghty
Suzanne Geraty
Ralph Gerhardt
Robert Gerlich
Denis P. Germain
Marina Romanovna Gertsberg
Susan M. Getzendanner
Lawrence D. Getzfried
James G. Geyer
Cortez Ghee
Joseph M. Giaconne
Vincent Francis Giammona
Debra Lynn Gibbon
James Andrew Giberson
Brenda C. Gibson
Craig Neil Gibson
Ronnie E. Gies
Andrew Clive Gilbert
Timothy Paul Gilbert
Paul Stuart Gilby
Paul John Gill
Mark Y. Gilles
Evan Hunter Gillette
Ronald Lawrence Gilligan
Rodney C. Gillis
Laura Gilly
John F. Giorgi
Donna Marie Giordano
Jeffrey John Giordano
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Toshio Otake
Seamus L. O’neal
Betty Ann Ong
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Christopher T. Orgilewicz
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Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for recognizing my friend and colleague from New York, Sergeant Major Jackson."
We will never forget 9/11. We will never forget those who perished on that day from the terrorist attacks, and we will never abandon those who battled that day and still bear the scars.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MALONEY for hosting this Special Order hour with me and for being such a champion for the survivors and responders over the years.

I thank each of our colleagues who come to the floor this evening to remember those we lost and thank all of our colleagues who joined us in voting for and renewing the 9/11 healthcare act.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. LOWERY), another champion for this cause.

Ms. LOWERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and New Yorker, my colleague, CAROLYN MALONEY, for organizing this evening so that we can all remember.

Eighteen years have passed since the September 11 attacks, but the memory of this unimaginable tragedy, unspeakable terror, and profound grief remains.

When tragedy struck, men and women streamed from the Twin Towers and the Pentagon as first responders ran in and risked their lives. Volunteers sifted through debris for days and weeks, hoping for miracles.

Between those horrific attacks and the crash of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, we lost nearly 3,000 family members, friends, and neighbors. We promised to never forget those whose lives were cut short.

The pain that we all feel from the loss of our relatives, friends, and neighbors will never heal, but every day we must channel that pain into remembrance and service. By participating in this day of service, we help build a stronger, more unified community to honor their memories.

We are also called to care for those who remain with us but suffer as a result of their bravery that day. In July, the Senate followed the House's lead and passed the permanent renewal of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, which was enacted on July 29, 2019. The long-overdue action provides financial security and care for first responders and survivors who are ill from exposure to a mix of burning chemicals and debris.

On this and every anniversary of the September 11 attacks, we are reminded of our common purpose and solemn responsibilities: to care for the survivors and our responders, to give our law enforcement the resources to prevent and respond to attacks, and, last but not least, to hold the victims and heroes of September 11 and their families forever in our hearts.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

On 9/11, I got in a car and started to driving to New York. There were barricades up that said: “New York in crisis. You cannot pass.” It was the only time I ever had to use my congressional ID.

I got through, and all you could see were first responders pouring in from New Jersey to help. They were a critical part of not only rebuilding in New York, but passing the important legislation.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chairwoman, Representative MALONEY, for all her dedication, and I thank her for naming me to share a few remarks.

I am a new Representative from Pennsylvania, neighbor to New Jersey, but I spend an awful lot of time in New Jersey, and our whole area was affected.

Eighteen years ago, planes crashed into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field near Shanksville. September 11 slammed into our national consciousness and has reverberated ever since.

We lost family, friends, neighbors, cowokers—losses that are immeasurable. We might have lost more, but on that day, our first responders rushed toward danger, ignored orders, and then spent months cleaning up the wreckage.

That blend of sorrow and courage was on display again in June, when first responders encouraged Congress to reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Detective Luis Alvarez told me: “I’m doing okay, but there are others out there who aren’t doing okay.” Before Detective Alvarez died a few weeks later, he said: “The government has to act like first responders... put politics aside and let’s get this bill done.”

Ultimately, we did so—through the might and strength of CAROLYN MALONEY, I might add—naming our bill for him, Luis Alvarez, and other heroes.

In the spirit of Detective Alvarez, let us continue to do so, working together with decency and respect. That is how we will honor those we lost; that is how we will honor those we continue to lose; and that is how we will honor all of those who continue to grieve.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

9/11 was a total bipartisan effort. I have never seen so united and determined, working together, particularly in the New York delegation.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for yielding and for hosting this Special Order hour. Really, much of Congresswoman MALONEY’s career here and legacy of service in the House of Representatives, while focused passionately on a lot of other issues that are very important, certainly is one that is filled with much success in advocating on behalf of the New York community and for first responders all across America for important priorities post-9/11. So I thank her for all of her leadership, because a lot of that benefits my constituents as well on the East End, but, really, for all of us as Americans.

As we are here right now, all across New York, across my district, across the country, people are men and women who remember exactly where they were and how they felt, what they saw, what they heard, and also, kids who weren’t even born yet, learning for the first time those stories of what was experienced on September 11, 2001.

We often talk about our Nation’s Greatest Generation. I was at Army Reserve duty this past weekend, and I was talking to one Officer who said that his life—not just his military career, but his life—is broken up into two parts: There was the part of his life until September 11, 2001, and the part of his life after September 11, 2001.

It is so important for us to honor and remember the victims of September 11, 2001, to honor and remember those with courage who ran up while other people were running down, who ran toward danger, ignoring orders to go in the opposite direction at the ultimate risk of their own life.

And also, it is important for us to honor all of the men and women who were serving in our military. Think of that man or that woman that next morning who had a successful career, a stable family, and they went to their local recruiter’s office to sign up to serve and, ultimately, gave their life in that cause. There has been so much sacrifice since 9/11.

As we gather together on this 18th anniversary here in the House Chamber, this morning starting with a moment of silence and a singing of “God Bless America,” we have to remember. We have to remember, “We will never forget,” we have to ensure that every single day that we are honoring the legacy of all those lives cut short too soon, that we are paying tribute to those first responders with an enormous amount of courage, and that we are honoring those men and women who still serve to this day, those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, our Gold Star families, our Blue Star families, past, present, and future.

As that Lieutenant Colonel told me this past weekend, for him, where he separated his life into service before 9/11 and service after, life before 9/11 and life after, know that right now we have men and women overseas who were 1 year old or 2 years old and their entire life have only known the post-9/11 reality, and yet they want nothing else but service.

So I think this 18th anniversary is not just about what happened on that day and the days and the weeks and the months that followed, but it is also about where we are today.
Finally, I would say this: While we talk about the lives that were lost that day, there is an important lesson with the justice that was served to follow, for anyone who seeks to break down this country, to tear apart what binds us together. And for all those Americans, the hour of justice will be delivered to them abroad, because America is strong.

New Yorkers are strong, but as Americans, we will come together; we will unite; we will fight to protect our freedoms and our liberties. And it is not about Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal; it is about us as Members of this body and as Americans outside of this body to unite for a cause so much greater than ourselves, the greatest Nation in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Mrs. MALONEY for her leadership through the years to ensure that, in so many ways, our first responders, families, victims are all being fought for successfully in the Halls of this great Chamber, and all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have assisted Mrs. MALONEY in her important efforts. I thank the gentleman for hosting today’s Special Order hour.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), a great partner in our efforts.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MALONEY and Chairman NADLER for organizing bipartisan Special Order hour this evening to remember the attacks on September 11.

I thank the gentlewoman so much for all she does for our first responders and for our country. We are all very grateful.

More than 700 New Jersey residents were among the nearly 3,000 Americans killed at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on the four planes that morning. The attacks were not only a declaration of war on the American people, but also on our fundamental ideals of freedom and liberty.

On 9/11, we lost more than 800 firefighters, police, EMTs, and other first responders who all ran in to help, true heroes of the American people, but also on our fundamental ideals of freedom and liberty.

Today, we are able to step back, to think and reflect and pray for all the lives we lost that day and all those we have lost since. We honor their legacies by coming together as a nation here in the greatest country in the world and continuing to work to build a more perfect Union.

As we remember those we lost and our veterans and our active service-members and all of our first responders who continue to protect us, may God bless all those we lost that day as well as their families, those we have lost since, and may God bless those who bravely protect us here at home and abroad every day. And may God to continue to bless the United States of America.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO), an outstanding new Member of Congress, a great addition to the New York delegation.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of nearly 3,000 Americans who were killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks on our homeland. Eighteen years ago today, vile acts of terror were committed in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. In the moments following these tragedies, as thousands of people streamed out of the towers for safety, thousands of first responders ran into harm’s way to save lives. These heroes came from all across the State of New York, including my district, the 19th Congressional District.

Today is a solemn day of quiet remembrance. We bow our heads as a nation in a moment of silence, as we cannot carry the weight of these memories of loved ones alone. The pain is too hard for one family to bear, for one city to bear alone, for one State to bear alone.

Today I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and from every corner of the country to never forget to never forget the lives we lost, to never forget the sacrifices made of our men and women in uniform, and know that we will stand with you and your families in the years ahead.

May we never forget the national unity we all felt in the days, weeks, and months following 9/11 where all that mattered was putting country first. God bless America.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NORMA TORRES), a great leader here in Congress.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives MALONEY and NADLER for organizing this Special Order to mark a day that is engraved in the memory of every American, September 11, 2001.

I rise today to honor the lives of the fallen, the firefighters and the law enforcement officers who ran towards danger when everyone else was running away from it. And we recognize the 911 dispatchers who were working around the clock behind the scenes to organize emergency response across our Nation.

I was working at the LAPD 911 center that morning. It was all hands on deck, and I didn’t know when I would be able to go home. My first assignment that day was to assemble two mobile field force units and send them out to protect places of worship, water treatment plants, cell phone towers, and anything that could be considered a target.

I had no idea what would come next. Never did I think. But the first responder working that day, 911 dispatchers had to cast their own fears aside. They had jobs to do. They had to protect and secure their communities, just like firefighters and police officers, and they had to call reassuring voice on the other side of the line for every person who dialed 911, for every resident who was fearing the worst, for every child who was calling to ask should I go to school or stay home. We received a call all over the world at our 911 center that day.

So as we pause today to remember that tragic, dark day, let us not forget the unsung heroes, the 911 dispatchers who are always heard and never seen.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus for allowing us to use their time on the floor with this Special Order remembering our losses, our strength, remembering 9/11.

9/11 was a transformational event. I never met anyone from another country or any State in America that they do not tell me about their feelings about 9/11. I remember when I drove home that day and my daughter was home sick, and she said—and it still is one of the best descriptions of what happened—she said, “I feel like Alice in Wonderland. I have gone through the looking glass and nothing will ever be the same again.” And it is true about our country.

We reordered our priorities and made Homeland Security our number one priority. We wrote many bills to make this country safer and stronger, and we worked together that day and every day. We remember the lives that were taken from us and in the years that have followed the lives that have been lost because of sickness, and we are reminded of the strength and resiliency of our great Nation and what we can achieve when we band together.

I want to thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for joining me in this Special Order and for all of
their help and support and ideas, leadership, and guidance to help rebuild this Nation and make it stronger after 9/11.

We will never forget.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designer of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MALONEY for telling the story. You know, it is not just New Yorkers, I can’t imagine there is an American who doesn’t remember exactly where they were in that horror, and mostly, for its moment yet where those of us in the West and all over the country ached to see what happened to your community.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and all of my colleagues for all of their help for the Pentagon and the American people.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, just before we got back there was a moment that it is going to be a little geeky, but I wanted to go walk through some of those underlying numbers that lay in there. And it’s actually good news, the fact that there are really terrific things happening in our economy.

But I still want to put it in context: I have been coming to this microphone for quite a while now to say, What is the biggest issue we as a society have? If you think of my little girl that is going to grow up, what is the biggest impairment to her economic future? And we are going to walk through some of the math, but we are going to also walk through some of the solutions, because it turns out it is demographics.

We always put up this slide to basically sort of point out that the days of yesteryear, where Members would get behind these microphones and say, Well, if we just raise the tax on this population, this entitlement reform over here, or we just do premium support over here that the fact of the matter is that 30 years from now, if you remove Social Security and Medicare from the budget, this country is 20-some-trillion dollars cash positive. If you pull Social Security and Medicare back into the math, we are $100 trillion upside down. Mathematically, we just can’t get there.

And so, if we actually care about keeping our promises, you know, the 10,300 Americans that turn 65 every single day and start to move into their benefits, we really need to get serious, because we are already in a time—we don’t tell the public this because it is hard. We are not honest, I believe, with ourselves, but there is already things Congress would desperately like to be doing, our constituents would desperately like us to do that we are not doing because of the squeeze-out factor that is already happening because of our demographics.

There is this thing called baby boomers. I am one of them. And the math to keep our promises basically takes away the resources that would be doing other things. And they are promises, we have to keep them.

So how do you create the economic vitality, the labor force and all those other things? And we are going to spend a little bit of time on labor force today.

So just some points of reference. Every 5 years just the growth of Social Security and Medicare healthcare entitlements, just the growth portion equals the entire Defense Department. So if you came into the office and said, ‘‘DAVID, tomorrow my solution for being able to keep our promises in Medicare is let’s just get rid of the Pentagon,’’ you only covered the growth portion of the spending for Social Security and Medicare healthcare entitlements for 5 years. So then every 10 years, two full Pentagons is just the growth. Ninety-one percent of the spending increases that are basically slated for the next 10 years are solely the growth in Social Security and Medicare.

Understand, it is math. It is not Republican or Democrat. And we have lucency around here. We have done this on the floor before, where we walk through some of the solutions that are thrown out that are completely make-believe. Well, if we just raised taxes on the rich and do this, if we just raised this number, and you understand, the math doesn’t work. You are going to have a hard time doing something that is really hard for a broken political system. And we are going to have to do something that is big, complex, and actually holistic.

So one of the reasons we put this board up almost every time we are behind this microphone is trying to say, We actually sort of have come up with about five pillars, everything from, you know, one pillar being tax policy, trade policy, regulatory policy to maximize economic velocity, incentives to be in the labor force to maximize that; because labor force participation is crucial.

Let’s explain. After tax reform, the modelers kept coming back and saying, We believe the headwinds for the economic growth are going to be what they call capital stock, savings. Will the country have cash in its banks and those things?

Well, we have already blown the wheels off or the charts off or however you want to say it, everything from repatriated cash coming back into the country which has been substantially greater than we have ever expected. Foreign investments. But also, Americans have been saving substantially more of the tax reform savings to them than we actually modelled.

But it was labor force. And we are going to come back to that because there is actually some really interesting, good news, but we have got to get our heads around it, but the two headwinds were labor force and capital stock.

We have proven capital stock is working in our favor, and all of a sudden, we got a jobs report that looks like the labor force. This violates all the smart people and the demographers who never thought that, at this point in our demographic cycle, we would be hitting these numbers.

Another thing we talk about is, how do we have population stability? Immigration, family formation. Our birth
rates, now we are at functionally negative population growth if we look at domestic birth rates. That is a real problem. If we are going to redesign immigration, can we move to a talent-based immigration system so it maximizes economic velocity?

Once again, you see a theme here. We must grow like crazy.

Other things: Can we put incentives into our earned entitlement programs? When you earn Social Security, could we build some incentives in there saying, if you are healthy and feel of sharp mind, or if you want to be an entrepreneur, what can we do as incentives to stay in the labor force? You continue that, because we need you?

We have done some time on the floor where we have walked through things that are happening in countries like Japan, where they are desperately trying to stay alive. We have learned how to do some back into the labor force just for economic survival.

The one we have had the most fun with behind this microphone—and the next one is not only a curious sense, and then we will go on to the labor force issues—is that I believe we are in a time when technology may be one of the things that saves us. We have done time on this floor where we have walked through the technology that is about to do stunningly great things for the environment.

We now have a couple of big experimental power plants that are working outside of Houston where they are burning coal and natural gas with no smokestack. They are collecting every bit of the CO2.

We have proven that technology works. Now we have had a breakthrough on being able to carbon mine the seas, which makes some sense, and then we will go on to the labor force issues—is that I believe we are in a time when technology may be one of the things that saves us. We have done some time on the floor where we have walked through the technology that is about to do stunningly great things for the environment.

As we are walking through the math, and we went back and double-vetted this a couple of hours ago, and we talked about this before, if you look at the next 30 years and remove Social Security and Medicare, our country is $25.3 trillion cash positive. If you take Social Security, Medicare, and their associated interest costs on the borrowing, we are over $100 trillion negative.

If you look carefully, it is not Social Security. Social Security is a big deal, but two-thirds-plus of it is Medicare.

We need to have a fixation on what we do as a society to crack the cost of healthcare. That is why we are working on a piece of legislation in our office to allow technology to be truly—think about a Blockbuster video moment.

How many of us went to Blockbuster video last weekend? I know it is a silly example, but it is a good one because it didn’t feel like, overnight, we used to go get those little silver disks, and now we go home and hit a button.

We, as a society, engage in technology disruption all the time.

The problem with healthcare, similar to what we have in education, is that we have so much government intrusion in it, so much government regulation, so much trying to keep people safe. The ability to have technology innovation that crashes the price—we have all seen some of those wearables and some of the things you look into that look like they are going to diagnose everything from several types of cancer to being able to tell if you have the flu. The algorithms associated with that, if we can demonstrate they are highly accurate, what should they be allowed to do?

That disruption is coming, but what do we do about this? We know what is driving the debt and what is going to drive us out of the red.

Could I beg of us, as policymakers, to fixate on the revolution that changes this cost curve? Instead, we will do absolutely ridiculous—my father used to refer to it as the shiny object theory. It is, you could have something that is incomparably important, if I can come up with a shiny object over here and wave it around and, in this case, get the press and others and maybe talk radio and maybe the cable news, we will talk about the shiny object. We will go run over and worry about that and deal with that, even though this over here is the thing that is so critical to the survival of our society.

Let’s talk about where we are having some success right now.

Only a couple of years ago—I remember it was the Joint Economic Committee—we were sitting down with some demographers and researchers. We were talking about the aging of America and how labor force participation was going to crash. Because of that, we were going to see a real headwind in our ability to grow as a society, as an economy.

Without growth, we are not going to have the revenues. We are not going to have all those pillars that we talked about in the beginning moving forward.

Last Friday, we got the unemployment numbers. Underneath it, there is that thing called the U6 data where you start to dive into it and understand what is really going on.

As we get ready to walk through these really positive things, I need everybody to work with me on a concept. How do we have a society—and let me grab my little notes here—that, all of a sudden, we have 163.4 million Americans working? We are now back above 60 percent labor force participation. We are back up to, like, 63.2, which those very researchers in that meeting a couple of years ago said by now we would be maybe as low as in the high 50s, that the available labor was going to crash.

You start to understand that there is a miracle happening in our society because, to quote some of the folks recently, workers came out of the woodwork this last month and have been entering the labor force.

The best way I can describe this is, remember a few years ago when we used to come behind these microphones and talk about the real unemployment data: Hey, I know they are saying we are only at 6 percent unemployment, but if you add in all those people who are not looking for work, discouraged workers, and put all that back in, you get from the 1980s, worn-out workers, the unemployment rate was 14, 16, 18 percent of the society.
We have data that, last month, when they do the real unemployment calculation, it is the lowest it has been in modern times. We are back at 7 percent and ticking lower. The official unemployment rate stayed at 3.7.

Work with me here. The official unemployment rate doesn’t change, but we know we had a few hundred thousand new entries into the labor force. A big chunk of that was not being calculated in unemployment numbers because they weren’t even looking. Something happened in society where, all of a sudden, folks who were underemployed, who had not been looking, all of a sudden came back.

This is really, really important. I know it is geeky, but the math is absolutely critical.

The other thing that was happening was, if you dug into that unemployment report on Friday, if you take the last 3 months, all of a sudden, wages and productivity have started to spike. If you look at demographics where, all of a sudden, wages are moving at about a 4.2 percent increase in a time with very low inflation.

We all remember our econ classes. What are the two things that make an employer pay you more money? It was really simple. It was productivity and inflation.

What happens if we are in a world where there is very little inflation and, all of a sudden, we are paying people more? It turns out maybe we have to add a little labor force squeeze, a society with more jobs than available workers. All of a sudden, we get the spike of productivity we see in the last 3 months. These are good things.

We have talked behind these microphones for years now about how working men and women aren’t getting ahead, that the actual real wages have stayed flat for a couple of decades, except for substantially this last year. We really should figure out what are we doing right and continue to do more of it.

Look, it is math. Is it Republican math or Democratic math? It is math, but something is working in our society where they are coming back into the labor force.

Look, why isn’t there joy in this place? Has our partisanship become so toxic that we are not even able to have a conversation of joy, a 3.3 percent unemployment rate? I mean, maybe we need to have a discussion of how we have to add a little labor force squeeze, a society with more jobs than available workers.

What happens if we are in a world where there is very little inflation and, all of a sudden, we are paying people more? It turns out maybe we have to add a little labor force squeeze, a society with more jobs than available workers. All of a sudden, we get the spike of productivity we see in the last 3 months. These are good things.

We really should figure out what are we doing right and continue to do more of it.

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my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to slow walk and delay a vote to ratify the USMCA.

While my colleagues may want to deny, or at least delay, any victory for President Trump, the only people hurt by this are the manufacturers, hard-working American farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and families.

Currently, more than 12 million American jobs depend on trade with Canada and Mexico. As is the case for 45 other States, Canada and Mexico are Kansas’ top two trading partners, worth $4.9 billion every year, while supporting 110,000 jobs in my State alone. This impact underscores just how important the USMCA is for our country.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, the USMCA will create 176,000 new jobs and increase U.S. GDP by $58 billion. Exports to USMCA partners will grow by $33.3 billion, and imports from the USMCA partners will grow by $31.5 billion.

Overall, the update to NAFTA will create jobs, boost wages, and open up new markets for American agriculture and manufacturing. It also sets unprecedented standards for areas like intellectual property, small businesses, and the environment.

This is a significant improvement over NAFTA, which was actually beneficial to my district in Kansas, especially for our farmers, ranchers, and aerospace manufacturers. However, the 25-year-old NAFTA agreement was out-dated and badly in need of reform and modernization.

Consider that, when NAFTA was first negotiated in 1992, Motorola cell phones were carried around in a bag, and just one in five households had a home computer. Even fewer than that could connect to a dial-up internet in order to access the world wide web, which had just been unveiled in 1991.

Clearly, a lot has changed in the last 25 years, and our laws and trade deals should change as well.

As Representative of the Air Capital of the World and the breadbasket of America, I know that USMCA is critical for manufacturers, farmers, and ranchers throughout Kansas and our country. That is why I am proud to serve today on the whip team, led by Whip Steve Scalise, to help get the USMCA finalized in Congress.

Earlier this year, the whip team met with Ambassador Lighthizer to receive an update on negotiations, and I want to use this opportunity to thank him and the entire administration for their hard work to draft the USMCA. Now it is time for Congress to do its part to secure this historic fair trade deal that farmers, ranchers, workers, and families in the heartland and throughout the country deserve.

As a fierce advocate for free and fair trade, I believe a trade agreement with Canada and Mexico is crucial for Kansas and our country. However, President Trump is right to insist that trade deals be both fair and free.

Free trade allows us to export our quality agriculture and manufactured goods around the globe, while fair trade enables us to do so at a fair price without intellectual property infringement. The USMCA accomplishes both of these goals.

I have several Members here with me tonight who also want to talk. I want to talk about some more about the benefits that are out there from the USMCA, but right now, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), my friend and colleague.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the good gentleman for bringing this issue to light and for holding this Special Order, and, of course, my colleagues who are with me here today. All of us who are probably older than the age of 25 have watched, probably in every State in the Union, certainly in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, every little town that you drove through that I am privileged to represent, every little town had some small business, or maybe two or three: a shoe factory, a dress factory. One of the little towns south of us had a cigar factory or two.

Over the course of my adult lifetime, those little factories, those small employers in every little town have left. The reason they left is multiple, but one of them is because the trade deals that were signed by previous administrations trapped them in their little towns. They encouraged our competitors to take them over, and they closed up shop. We lost those jobs. Our folks in America had to go find work elsewhere and get retraining elsewhere.

It has been 25 years since NAFTA was enacted. Twenty-five years is a long time. Things were different 25 years ago. There wasn’t e-commerce. We weren’t all thinking about a globalized economy.

Now these antiquated laws that we are living under are holding back our American economy. If we would just pass the USMCA—it is in the hands of the Speaker right now. If we would just pass it, 176,000 new jobs, $68 billion in growth to our economy.

Instead of being worried about trading with China and being concerned with what China is going to do, we could trade with people we really agree with who are right on the other side of our border: Canada and Mexico. Wouldn’t that be wonderful?

We need to modernize our laws, and that starts by allowing the USMCA to go through. That framework should be considered today. We need free and fair trade. We don’t have that right now.

We must pass the USMCA to bolster quality, family-sustaining jobs in America, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other States around our country.

The USMCA is a win for the American worker. It is great to help out our neighbors around the globe, but our responsibility first is right here at home in our States, like the State of Pennsylvania where I am privileged to come from.

The USMCA is a great start and a strategic win. Today I am calling on House leadership to allow for the consideration of the USMCA without any further delay. Let’s get it done where they may. Put it on the floor, and let’s see what happens. I suspect it will pass, which means the will of the people will be done and we can get to work working more with our allies and our friends and doing better for Americans.

Quite honestly, while China is waiting to make a trade deal, one of the reasons they are waiting is because this Congress won’t approve one in the USMCA. They are saying: Why should we agree to a deal with China, too, and it starts with the USMCA.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me the time and for bringing this issue to the forefront.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, Mr. PERRY said a lot of things that are really valid there and important to us.

I have several other Members who want to talk about how important things are. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), my friend and colleague.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body’s consideration of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or the USMCA, which has the support of both of our neighboring nations; the majority of our Nation’s Governors, including Ohio’s Governor Mike DeWine; more than 600 trade group organizations across the Nation; our current administration; a significant number of my colleagues both in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; and myself.

The USMCA will support tens of millions of jobs across the United States. In my home State of Ohio, more than 428,000 jobs are supported by trade with Canada and Mexico.

The livelihood of my constituents is directly impacted by the success of trade with our neighboring nations. Last year, nearly $28 billion worth of goods and services were exported from my home State of Ohio to Canada and Mexico.

These exports consist of iron, steel, motor vehicle parts, and machinery, much of which come from my district in central Ohio. Ohio is also the 12th largest agricultural exporting State. USMCA will make important improvements to secure greater market access for our farmers and will ensure the fair treatment of Ohio’s agriculture products in the marketplace.

With $28 billion in economic value and 428,000 Ohio jobs on the line, we simply cannot afford for the USMCA to fail. It is time to pass USMCA.
Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Representative BALDERSON's efforts and involvement in this.

I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my colleague.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Kansas for yielding.

I also rise today to speak urging consideration of USMCA.

Mr. Speaker, I have been an elected official for a while, and even when I first began this job in the 1990s, I would get complaints from people as to why we couldn't do something about NAFTA.

After four Presidents, we watched NAFTA be approved and watched jobs leave America. We finally have a President who is willing to do something about it. As mentioned before, this agreement is important for Wisconsin manufacturers and manufacturers all over the country. Wisconsin, of all of the States, has the second highest percent of our workforce involved in manufacturing, and that is when I get home, I hear about the importance of this agreement more often.

But as important as it is to manufacturing, the major reason why I wish so much this would be brought to the floor is when I go back home, I hear so much from my agriculture sector. This is important for your corn farmer, but it is even more important for your dairy farmer. Dairy is in the worst position it has been, I think, since I was in law school in the 1980s, and I was a law clerk for someone who had a primary dairy clientele. It was so tough watching what these guys and gals went through in dairy in the 1980s.

Now, due to low prices, we are back to where we again and again watch dairy farmers wondering whether they are going to be able to hang on for another week, another month without going under. And here we have this agreement, which has been sitting here waiting to be voted on, and we are not allowed to come in here and vote on it. I believe that there may be some things you don't like about President Trump, but he has negotiated a very important agreement here, a very important agreement for manufacturers, a very important agreement for the agriculture sector, especially dairy.

Please, do not let this agreement wait any more. Do not drive more people out of business just for partisan reasons. This is such a good agreement. It is so rare that we get a big improvement around here.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's time and participation in this very important topic tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), my friend.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Kansas who represents my wife's family.

Holding up those rules so much, but there were a couple of things as we were doing some economic numbers before.

The modeling right now says if USMCA passes, it is another half a point on GDP growth. In a $21 trillion economy, that is real money, but it is also hundreds and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

But there is even another complexity that I am going to ask for folks to think about. Think of the issues we have, particularly with China. So many of us would love to have a healthy relationship with China, but we don't believe they are playing by the WTO rules. They are rules.

So we are seeing a world right now where lots of manufacturers are thinking about moving parts of their supply chain. Wouldn't it be an amazing thing that we do our job here, we get this trade agreement passed, and those components, those issues, parts of those supply chains are back here in North America? Our ability to say our continent, our trading block, our ability to not only have robust economies here of our own, but these labor provisions.

And this is the last thing I really wanted to hit on. The gentleman and I are on the whip team for passing this. We have had a number of visits with the brothers on the left. With a lot of them, I will get this: Well, David, I am concerned about the enforcement of the new labor standards that the Mexican Government has passed.

Remember, their legislature has passed this. Their President has signed it. There are dramatic changes in their labor rules. I will bring them a copy and say: But you don't understand, it is not the 1940s and 1950s anymore. You don't send in a team of union representatives to go inspect one of the 70,000-some facilities and inspect and then write up a report saying we don't think you are—in today's world, we have that thing called the Internet.

The law the Congress passed actually has provisions in there for privacy and secrecy and the ability to use technology that if you believe your labor rights are being abused in a Mexican factory, you can actually document it. You can actually put it on a blog and those things.

So how do we drag our brothers and sisters from the left to actually walk away from the excuse of the labor improvement enforcement, and get them to understand that it is not the 1950s anymore. Now we are going to use technology and the ability to have these new labor standards in Mexico which can be enforced on a very large scale using technology?

This is incredibly important to our economic growth, and our entire region. Let's get this done.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his comments. The gentleman pointed out so much about how important it is to get that economic growth so that we have got the value in the economy and how much effort that Mexico has made, already changing the laws in their country to make sure that it is a much more viable process for them, and it is more productive for them as well.

Mr. Speaker, I come from Kansas, and specifically in my district, we have a lot of agriculture and a lot of issues there.

And the USMCA is a great improvement for the agriculture sector. It sets some unprecedented standards for agriculture, regulation, and biotechnology.

It maintains duty-free access for American farmers and ranchers and provides new access for U.S. wheat, eggs, dairy, and poultry. In fact, the International Trade Commission estimates an additional $277 million in increased dairy sales to our North American partners under USMCA. That is a 44 percent increase that will bring a much-needed lift to the U.S. dairy industry.

Another area is manufacturing. USMCA maintains a duty-free access for U.S. manufactured goods and reduces some of the United States trade representative estimates that USMCA will add $34 billion in automotive investment and create 76,000 new American jobs.

And it also incentivizes higher wages, requiring 40 to 50 percent of auto content to be made by workers making at least $16 an hour, helping to boost wages across many manufacturing sectors.

It requires Mexico to pass some sweeping labor reforms to improve standards there and create an even more even playing field for American labor. Mexico has already followed through and enacted these reforms which are already benefiting U.S. manufacturing.

Canada and Mexico buy more products manufactured in America than our next 10 trading partners. Exports of manufactured goods to Canada and Mexico account for more than 2 million jobs across our country.

As a representative of Wichita, I have seen firsthand how important it is that our manufacturers have access to global markets. Transportation equipment exports account for $2.7 billion last year, and the growth in manufactured goods, exports from Kansas, grew 8.5 percent from 2010 to 2018.

In addition, Kansas aerospace exports to Canada and Mexico have increased by more than 20 percent over the last decade, helping grow the total value of manufactured goods exported from Kansas to Canada and Mexico to $3.2 billion in 2018. These numbers underscore the importance of USMCA for American manufacturing.

I wanted to mention that I have got some other representatives here who also have a big impact and a lot of value to add to that. Right now I would like to call on my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania.
Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Kansas yielding to me.

I stand before you today representing the outstanding people of Pennsylvania’s 12th Congressional District to call upon the Speaker to bring up and my colleagues to pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, otherwise known as USMCA.

Back in Pennsylvania’s 12th Congressional District during the August work month, I heard from our farmers, our manufacturers, and energy producers, all of whom would benefit from the passage of the USMCA.

Their message to me was clear: We need to complete this trade deal so we can continue hiring, growing wages, and keep this economy rolling. The benefits of the USMCA to our agriculture community are critical.

Pennsylvania’s 12th Congressional District is home to over 10,500 farms, 98 percent of which are family farms. Moreover, our district is responsible for 18 percent of Pennsylvania’s agricultural sales.

During August, I visited Brown Hill Farms in Tunkhannock. I met with dairy producers at an ag-dairy summit being hosted by the dairy producers at the Tunkhannock Farm. I met with dairy producers at an ag-dairy summit with USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and my colleague, Congressman G. T. Trott (Mr. BAIRD). I also attended Penn State’s AG Progress Days, Pennsylvania’s largest outdoor agricultural exposition. At each visit, dairy producers said the same thing. The USMCA agreement would greatly benefit them by eliminating Canada’s Class 7 milk, allowing American dairy farmers to once again sell milk ingredient products in Canada.

Canada and Mexico have taken steps to finalize this agreement. What is stopping the United States from doing the same? Right now, the agreement is sitting on Speaker PELOSI’s desk.

Let’s be clear. Failure to bring up the USMCA is a failure to stand up for American jobs, American workers, and American families.

That is a shame because one thing that Members of Congress share is that we want to do what is best for our districts and for our country. Our constituents sent us here to work on things that will actually help people. USMCA will do that by prioritizing American jobs, American goods, and American workers.

I think Congressman ESTES for organizing tonight’s Special Order on USMCA. Let’s work on things that can actually help people. Let’s work on things that can have a positive impact.

Let’s pass the USMCA.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).
Congress could do for our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and workers.

The President has delivered, and now it is time for Congress to deliver. Delaying the implementation of this program hurts agriculture across Kansas because the deal would enable Kansas producers to trade more commodities by opening the Canadian market up for American dairy, wheat, chicken, and eggs, some for the very first time.

Additionally, this agreement will grow our business with our very top two customers, Mexico and Canada, meaning thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in increased exports for Kansans.

Finally, the unprecedented standards for agricultural biotechnology will support 21st-century innovations in agriculture and lay the groundwork for future agreements with other countries around the globe.

Some of the brightest thinkers in the world are in America, but these innovators have been robbed of billions of dollars over the previous decades due to intellectual property theft. USMCA can’t be delayed any longer, as new protections for intellectual property will drive innovation and create even more jobs by strengthening protection of patents, trademarks, and secrets.

President Trump’s USMCA also levels the playing field for workers in my State by expanding guarantees for the enforcement of labor protections across North America. Future economic growth and jobs for Kansas and America are increasingly dependent on expanding U.S. trade and investment opportunities in the global marketplace. President Trump has delivered this incredibly bipartisan deal, and it is long past time for Congress to bring it up for a vote to usher in a new era in American trade.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time for us to bring USMCA to the floor.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members who have joined us tonight.

As President Trump has often pointed out, many of our trade deals have not always created the best outcomes for American workers and products, but by approving the USMCA, we can take one giant step in overhauling one of the most fundamental trade deals with our closest neighbors. We can also create a great template for success, especially if we turn our focus to improving trade relations with China and other countries.

As we stated tonight, there is no time like the present to get started moving this process forward, making sure that every provision of the deal is enforceable so we can get the USMCA across the finish line. The cost of delay is too great for our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and families.

Again, I thank my colleagues for joining me tonight, and I ask this body to pass the USMCA now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, if innovation is the lifeblood of our nation’s economy, then the Dallas-Fort Worth region might very well be considered our country’s heart. World-class research hospitals and several leading pharmaceutical companies call DFW home, where they create life-saving treatments while keeping our local economy strong. Their continued success, however, depends on their access to international marketplaces, especially those in Canada and Mexico. That is why passing the United States Mexico Canada Agreement, or “USMCA,” is so important.

One of the biggest concerns that I hear from innovators in my district is the protection of their intellectual property (IP) rights in the international marketplace. President Trump and Trade Ambassador Lighthizer have delivered on this issue by installing robust IP protections into this trade agreement with Canada and Mexico. The USMCA provisions that strengthen patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets protections mean that innovators can spend less time worrying about protecting their IP rights and more time creating products and Texas jobs.

Not only will this job creation boost the American and Texan economies, but it will also benefit two of our country’s strongest trading partners. In 2017, Texas alone exported $127 billion in products to Canada and Mexico, with 72 percent of the materials imported by Texan manufacturers coming from those same countries. The Texas economy flourishes from its trade relationship with these countries, and in the end, trade with Mexico and Canada supports 948,900 jobs in our state.

Many Americans are already living in the strongest economy of their lifetimes, and the USMCA is critical to ensuring that our country’s industries can continue to prosper and sell their goods freely and fairly across the globe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage and ask that it be brought up for a vote as soon as possible.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker’s table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2035. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to develop a strategic plan to expand eligibility for the PreCheck Program to individuals with Transportation Worker Identification Credentials or Hazardous Materials Endorsements; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o’clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 9 a.m.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019, as amended, for printing in the Congressional Record.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 205 (RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–29)

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Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act, as amended, for printing in the Congressional Record.
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

ETC.

Under clause 1 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2037. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulations and Energy Efficiency, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inclusion of Early Stage Technology Demonstration in Authorized Technology Transfer Activities (RIN: 1901-AC14) received August 27, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2038. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revision to Reference Methodology Rule [EPA-RO7-OAR-2019-0203; FRL-9997-38-Region 7] received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2039. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — CI-C4 Linear and Branched Chain Alkyl D-Glucitol Dianhydro Alkyl Ethers; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0321; FRL-9997-14] received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2040. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Technical Amendments to Revise Regional Office Address [FRL-9998-08-Region 6] received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2041. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arkansas; Revisions to State Implementation Plan Requirements, Enforcement (RIN: EPA-RO7-OAR-2019-0301; FRL-9997-81-Region 6) received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2042. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) MOR116; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-RO7-OAR-2019-0303; FRL-9997-41-Region 7] received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2043. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-Chloro-2-(2-hydroxyethyl) Propionic Acid; Revision to Reference Methodology [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0324; FRL-9997-94] received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2044. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Nevada; Revisions to Clark County Ozone Maintenance Plan [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0368; FRL-9998-83-Region 9] received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2045. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Technical Amendments to Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Ohio; Corrections (RIN: EPA-RO5-OAR-2007-1092; MI-87-1; EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0121; FRL-9996-75-Region 5) received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2046. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0105; FRL-9998-76-Region 9] received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2047. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0105; FRL-9998-76-Region 9] received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2048. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0105; FRL-9998-76-Region 9] received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2049. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland, Transmittal No. 19-49, pursuant to section 39(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2050. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-113, “Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2019”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2051. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-113, “Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2019”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2052. A letter from the Director, Office of the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a notification of a proposed 2024 annual report, permitting the Secretary of Education to release, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2691-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2053. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-113, “Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2019”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2054. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on politically motivated boycotts of, divestment from, and sanctions against Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2055. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulations and Energy Efficiency, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0018; Product Identifier 2018-NM-0648-AW74] received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2056. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Learjet, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0046; Product Identifier 2018-CE-040-AD; Amendment 2019-17-01] received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2057. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Commercial Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0018; Product Identifier 2018-NM-0648-AW74] received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2058. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0528; Product Identifier 2018-NE-24-AD; Amendment 2019-17-01; Amendment 2019-17-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0355; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD: Amendment 2019-0355; Airspace Docket No.: 2120-AA66] received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2060. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0467; Product Identifier 2019-120-AD: Amendment 2019-120-AD; Amendment 39-19706; AD 2019-15-ME (RIN: 2120-AA46) received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2061. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0365; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD: Amendment 39-19718; AD 2019-16-15 (RIN: 2120-AA46) received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2062. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0365; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD: Amendment 39-19718; AD 2019-16-15 (RIN: 2120-AA46) received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2063. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace, Marion, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0355; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-15 (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2064. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace, Marion, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0355; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-15 (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2065. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Security Threat Disqualification Update [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0566; Amendment Nos.: 3-2, 61-143, 63-42, and 65-59 (RIN: 2120-AL04) received August 29, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2066. A letter from the Chief, Commercial and Trade Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological Material From Algeria and Morocco [Docket No.: 2120-AL70; RIN: 1515-AE48] received August 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security, H.R. 3691. A bill to require the TSA to develop a plan to ensure that TSA material disseminated in major airports can be better understood by more people accessing such airports, and for other purposes (Rept. 116–201). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, H.R. 335. A bill to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in southern Florida, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116–202, Pt. 1) 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 Natural Resources discharged from further consideration. H.R. 335 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk: Motion No. 7, September 11, 2019 by Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York on H.R. 1980.

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 Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LAMB, Mr. PEERY, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania): H.R. 4279. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to provide greater protection of proprietary information of other registered entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. COBETZ, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. HOULAHAN): H.R. 4238. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish the Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SCHAPERO (for himself, Mr. DAVIDSON of Kansas, Mr. COLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Mr. COOK, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. BLAIR): H.R. 4239. A bill to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of...
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By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. Brown of Maryland, and Mr. RAHABEM REFORM, 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).

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HUZENGA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. BERNHARD).

H. Res. 552. A resolution calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence of wrongdoing or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

131. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Mississippi, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 596, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

132. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, memorializing the Congress of the United States to facilitate and ensure implementation of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Stabilization Act of 2018 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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 Mr. KELLER:

H. Res. 4279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H. Res. 4281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Ms. WASHINGTON:

H. Res. 4282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H. Res. 4283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H. Res. 4286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, authorized by Congress’ power to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. BUDD:

H. Res. 4286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, authorized by Congress’ power to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. BRINDISI:

H. Res. 4285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, authorized by Congress’ power to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. COX of California:

H. Res. 4287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLEGOS:

H. Res. 4286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HAALAND:

H. Res. 4289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 states “The Congress shall have Power To . . . constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court . . .” And Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 states “The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.”

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 4293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. SCALISE:

H. Res. 4294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H. R. 35: Mr. MORELLE.

H. R. 96: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H. R. 144: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H. R. 146: Mr. CALVERT.

H. R. 250: Mr. ALLEN.

H. R. 303: Mr. LOBRSACK.

H. R. 307: Mr. PETERSON.

H. R. 366: Mr. COURTNEY.

H. R. 444: Mr. CORREA.

H. R. 518: Mr. TIPPTON, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Ms. LOPORRIN.
H.R. 569: Mr. Aguilar.
H.R. 575: Mr. Cline.
H.R. 585: Mr. Pocan and Mr. Cicilline.
H.R. 647: Mr. Bacon, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Bass, and Ms. Fudge, and Ms. Moore.
H.R. 649: Mr. Budd.
H.R. 674: Mrs. Lee of Nevada.
H.R. 727: Mr. Grijalva and Ms. Garcia of Texas.
H.R. 728: Mr. Morelle.
H.R. 737: Mr. Griffith.
H.R. 744: Mr. Amodei and Mr. Flores.
H.R. 766: Mr. Welch.
H.R. 822: Mr. Knanna.
H.R. 832: Mr. Watkins and Mr. Emmer.
H.R. 838: Ms. Saenz, Mr. Moon of West Virginia, Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Brooks of Alabama, and Mr. Mitchell.
H.R. 912: Mr. LaMalfa and Mr. Peterson.
H.R. 942: Mr. Fletcher.
H.R. 961: Mr. Cardenas.
H.R. 996: Mr. Amodei.
H.R. 1002: Mr. Peters, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Mast.
H.R. 1008: Mrs. Fletcher.
H.R. 1025: Mr. Gallego.
H.R. 1049: Mr. Tipton.
H.R. 1074: Mr. Jones.
H.R. 1139: Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mr. O’Halloran.
H.R. 1163: Mr. Zeldin.
H.R. 1173: Mr. Kuster of New Mexico.
H.R. 1196: Ms. Lee of California, Ms. Jackson Lee, and Mr. Levin of California.
H.R. 1221: Mr. Cohen.
H.R. 1236: Mr. Scott of Virginia.
H.R. 1309: Mr. McNerney and Ms. Frankel.
H.R. 1337: Mr. Brown of Maryland.
H.R. 1342: Mr. Fortenberry.
H.R. 1354: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 1403: Mr. Huffman.
H.R. 1497: Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico.
H.R. 1498: Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 1516: Ms. Taylor.
H.R. 1527: Mr. Zeldin.
H.R. 1534: Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Moulton, and Ms. Pressley.
H.R. 1554: Mr. Schrader.
H.R. 1607: Mr. Gaetz.
H.R. 1661: Ms. Titts.
H.R. 1671: Mr. Desaulnier.
H.R. 1682: Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 1695: Ms. Brooks of Indiana.
H.R. 1707: Ms. Dean.
H.R. 1709: Mr. Allred.
H.R. 1737: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 1749: Ms. Plaskett and Mr. King of Iowa.
H.R. 1761: Mr. Palmer.
H.R. 1766: Mr. Garcia of Illinois and Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1767: Ms. Sherrill.
H.R. 1773: Mr. Walberg.
H.R. 1776: Mr. Huffman.
H.R. 1799: Mr. Lipinski.
H.R. 1814: Mr. King of New York, Ms. Moore, and Mr. Evans.
H.R. 1865: Mr. Shermn and Mr. Tipton.
H.R. 1869: Mr. Welch and Mr. Williams.
H.R. 1873: Mr. Rost and Mr. Malinowski.
H.R. 1901: Mr. Rush.
H.R. 1933: Mr. Watkins.
H.R. 1934: Mr. Veasey.
H.R. 1940: Mr. Goudeau.
H.R. 1966: Mr. Cartwright.
H.R. 1975: Mr. Loudermilk.
H.R. 1978: Mr. Cardenas and Mr. Cisneros.
H.R. 1979: Mr. Kildee.
H.R. 1984: Mr. Spanberger.
H.R. 1985: Mr. Rice of South Carolina.
H.R. 1988: Mr. Loudermilk.
H.R. 2017: Mr. Lieu of California, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, and Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2019: Mr. Serrano.
H.R. 2043: Mr. Spanberger.
H.R. 2062: Ms. Craig.
The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are our defender and hope. On this 18th anniversary of September 11, we thank You that You never give us burdens too great to bear. Continue to remind us that eternal vigilance is the price for freedom. Comfort the families of those who died on 9/11, surrounding them with Your mercy and grace.

Lord, incline Your ears to our intercession. Teach us how to embrace the things that lead to peace, as You instruct us on how to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. Today, use our lawmakers as instruments of reconciliation.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The President 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 1 minute.

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

**REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH**
Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the Chaplain opened our Senate in prayer reminding everybody of what happened 18 years ago today: a disastrous attack on the United States. So referring to that same 18 years, I say our Nation changed forever following an act of cowardice from the enemies of freedom. The events of September 11 have left an indelible mark on American and world history and certainly on the lives of the victims’ families. We pray now, as we did then, that God may heal the wounds of those injured and the wounds left by those lost that day, that they may find peace on this solemn day.

Let us recall the sacrifices made that day to preserve our way of life and honor each day the pledge “Never forget.”

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

**E-CIGARETTES**
Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this week there was a significant development when it came to public health and our children in America. By way of preface to what I am about to say, I want to make clear that I have, during the course of my service in the House and the Senate, focused a great deal of my efforts on tobacco, the addiction that people have to tobacco cigarettes, and the deadly consequences of that addiction. My family has been touched by it, as most have in America. I lost my father when I was in high school. He smoked two packs a day and was a lung cancer victim. We buried him at the age of 53. I remember it to this day. I am not alone. Literally, thousands of Americans—millions, perhaps—have a similar story to tell. So from the beginning of my service in the House of Representatives, I started looking for ways to deal with this scourge of tobacco cigarette addiction. Many years ago—over 25 years ago—I introduced a measure that banned smoking on airplanes, and to my great surprise it managed to pass the House of Representatives. Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey was on the Appropriations subcommittee with the responsibility. He took it on in the Senate, passed it, and we made it the law of the land, banning smoking in airplanes.

I didn’t realize—and I am sure Senator Lautenberg didn’t—that we had triggered a tipping point or reaction that led to banning smoking in so many other venues. Ultimately, we have now reached a point where no one would consider walking into my office and lighting up a cigarette or even asking for permission to light a cigarette. It is just unthinkable. But 25 years ago it was common. So things have changed.

But what has happened is that Big Tobacco, having lost its marketplace position and lost its profitability, has moved to a new product—e-cigarettes and vaping. This company, JUUL, which is the largest provider of e-cigarettes and vaping, is counting on addicting children so that they can build their ranks, addicting teenagers. Tobacco cigarettes did the same with Joe Camel and the Marlboro cowboy, and now we see the same thing occurring when it comes to e-cigarettes and vaping.

The previous Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Dr. Gottlieb, characterized it properly when he called it an epidemic. We now have 3 percent of American adults who are using vaping devices, 20 percent of America’s teenagers and children using vaping devices. It is a new school year, and many of these students are heading off to middle schools and high schools.
with new backpacks and maybe new laptops and new lockers and new teachers and new classrooms and new friends and a new addiction—the addiction of vaping.

Vaping targets kids. They are introducing flavors that can be used for ‘Unicorn Milk’ or ‘Gummy Bears’? They are all out there. They are designed to lure children, and, sadly, they are effective.

For months now I have been begging this administration and the Food and Drug Administration to do something about this epidemic, and until this week they did little or nothing. But this week was a breakthrough. The Food and Drug Administration announced early this week that they were going to remove from the market flavors that were advertising that their vaping products were a safe alternative to tobacco cigarettes.

The reason is obvious. We have hundreds and hundreds of vaping victims now showing up in hospitals. As of last night, the sixth victim in America died from a vaping experience. Why? Because they are ingesting into their lungs, in these huge clouds of vapor and smoke, chemicals that are killing them, chemicals that are stopping their lungs from functioning. They don’t even know it at the time; it is just another wild experience. They are told, by the way, by JUUL and others that it is safer than tobacco cigarettes. It is not safe. It is deadly, and it is an epidemic in this country.

This week the American Medical Association stepped up its role, and I want to commend them. Dr. Patrice Harris, the President of the American Medical Association, released the following this week:

In light of increasing reports of e-cigarette-associated lung illnesses across the country, the (American Medical Association) urges the public to avoid the use of e-cigarette products until health officials further investigate and understand the cause of these illnesses.

She goes on to say:

The e-cigarette-related lung illnesses currently sweeping across the country reaffirm our belief that the use of e-cigarettes and vaping is an urgent public health epidemic that must be addressed. We must stand by while e-cigarettes continue to go unregulated. We urge the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to speed up the regulation of e-cigarettes and remove all unregulated products from the market. We also call on the FDA to develop new flavors, as well as marketing practices, that enhance the appeal of e-cigarette products to youth.

The Food and Drug Administration Commissioner has the authority today—before the sun sets on this 9/11 anniversary—to ban these flavors that are attracting children and adding to this epidemic in our high schools and middle schools across the United States. This Food and Drug Administration Administrator, Dr. Ned Sharpless, has the authority to take off the market scores, if not hundreds, of vaping devices that have been introduced to the public after the official date of deeming last year. He can do it today. It would have a dramatic effect starting tomorrow. He could start enforcing it with the retailers across America if he cared and if he were serious.

Now we have an opportunity to test him and to test this administration. Will they go the next step in warning America’s schools, teachers, families, and children about this epidemic and the deadly consequences of ignoring it? Will they take these products off the market this week?

That is my challenge to them and to every American parent who dearly loves their child and cares about their health. I hope they will join me in this effort to urge this administration to take decisive action for children across America. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, with only a few weeks to go until the end of September, we have no time to waste when it comes to appropriations. We had planned for the Senate to consider bipartisan bills from the Appropriations Committee as soon as next week and make significant headway before a partial interim continuing resolution becomes necessary at the end of the month.

To this end, Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate, plus President Trump, formally agreed an agreement 1 month ago. It set up funding levels to inform the appropriations process, and everyone on both sides agreed there would be no poison pills, no partisan wrenches thrown into the gears.

Unfortunately, yesterday brought some disturbing signals that Democrats may be rethinking that commitment. New poison pills are apparently being discussed. Everyone knows what we agreed to last month. In fact, back on August 1, I asked consent to print the entire terms sheet that everyone agreed to in the RECORD. So I maintain hope that Chairman SHEVLY and Ranking Member LEAHY can oversee a smooth process and that we can move all 12 appropriations bills to a bipartisan fashion. Both sides have every reason to want a smooth appropriations process to proceed as we had planned. I hope that is exactly what happens in committee this week and on the floor soon thereafter.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOLTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, he departs the position of National Security Advisor. I want to thank Ambassador John Bolton for his many years of valuable service to our country. Personally, I have always appreciated John’s candor and clear advice. He possesses something that is vital—the ability to understand the world the way it is. He knows that there are many threats to American interests and that those threats will not recede if we retreat. He understands that American leadership is essential to keeping these threats and coming the allies and partners and allies rarely act without us.

John appreciates the need to stand up to adversaries like Putin’s Russia, to approach them from a position of strength, and to hold them accountable for their lies and their misdeeds.

I wish him well wherever his career next takes him.

Of course, the President deserves to choose his own team, and he has assembled a strong one. He and our Nation are well served by such as Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Esper, and Director Haspel.

I hope the President selects a National Security Advisor who will work well with these seasoned national security leaders who have been chosen by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another entirely different matter, for 18 years today’s date has held a tragic meaning. September 11 is a day of mourning, a date stained by the terrorist murderers of so many innocent people in New York, Arlington, and Pennsylvania. With each passing day, the reality is still shocking, and the wounds are still painful.

Each year we remember the innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives; workers rushing to meetings, vacationers headed home, emergency personnel whose quick response immortalized them as heroes. Each year we honor the memories of the heroes who sacrificed their lives to bring the perpetrators of this evil to justice and to prevent similar attacks.

Our way of life was changed by 9/11. It changed our approach to security. It awakened us to determined new enemies.

The dangers of radical Islamic terrorists remain real. Al-Qaida, its enablers, and its allies still plot against America from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Mali, and beyond. ISIS persists in Iraq and Syria through an underground network of terrorists who have not yet given up the fight. We cannot walk away from these dangers. We must not leave our work undone.

Many nations have a stake in defeating the terrorists. Not all of them have been with the United States since the early hours of this fight. Eighteen years ago, this critical alliance invoked article V for the first time.
Since then, many NATO partners have fought side by side with us in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and in Syria.

We are not—and need not be—the world’s policeman. Winning this long war, like the Cold War, will require sustained efforts and contributions not only from the United States but from our allies and especially from local partners. For example, in Afghanistan the vast majority of the fighting is done by local security forces, but we must always remember the global coalition to defeat the terrorists will not lead itself.

So, today, as we remember the tragedies of the past, we must renew our commitment to leading the fight for a better future. Today, may the memory of the nearly 3,000 victims who lost their lives on this day in 2001 serve as a lasting reminder of what is at stake in the fight against terrorism and steel our resolve to continue the hard, necessary work of defending our homeland. May we always keep foremost in our thoughts the U.S. servicemembers, intelligence officers, diplomats, and first responders who have given their lives in pursuit of our Nation’s security.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the disposition of the Akard nomination, the majority leader and Democratic leader both have a minute to speak and the Senate then observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Cramer). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, our country, our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day.

I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on my way up, a firefighter I did blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year, we pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those we lost, but we also recognize, in the aftermath of September 11, the resiliency of the American people. The resiliency of New Yorkers shone through one of the darkest hours in our country.

Looking back remains difficult even after 18 years. I still take a hike through the city of New York and every fifth or sixth street is named after a firefighter or a police officer who died, as are parts of Brooklyn, Bay Ridge, and places like that. I will never forget. I think of it all the time.

The day after, when President Bush sent Senator Clinton and me to go up to New York in planes, we were the only planes in the sky. We were in an airliner that had us surrounded by F-18s and F-16s. When we landed, we went down to a field where the smell of death and burnt flesh was in the air. This I will never forget, a thousand people lined up—no one knew who had lived and who had died—with little signs: Have you seen my mother, Mary? Have you seen my son, Bill?

That stays with me.

I remember the generosity of New Yorkers. A man who owned a shoe store just north of the Towers gave out free shoes to everybody who was fleeing. Many of them had lost their shoes in the long trek down the stairs.

I remember the valor of the first responders who rushed to the Towers. I remember a firefighter from Staten Island, based in Brooklyn, who went to his firehouse, put his full gear on, and ran through the tunnel with about 60, 70 pounds of gear on. It was his day off, but he knew he was called. He went up the stairs of the World Trade Center and was crushed when the Twin Towers collapsed.

Another way I think of this every day, as I am sure you have noticed, is that every time I look at the flag the day after my having witnessed the site, and I have worn this flag every day since. Every time I look at it, I think of those who were lost, and I think of the valor of New Yorkers and of the American people.

For the first responders, this 9/11 carries a lot. A few months ago, some of the heroes that day were here in Washington to celebrate the permanent reauthorization of the Victim Compensation Fund. I thank the first responders who came to Washington and helped to secure this funding, especially those who are no longer with us—James Zadroga, Luis Alvarez, my friend Ray Pfeifer. Wherever they are, I hope they are looking down with the knowledge that their brothers and sisters are being taken care of by this country.

God bless those good heroes. May God continue to bless this resilient Nation.

Later this morning, I will return to the floor with the Republican leader and my colleagues as we will respect a moment of silence in memory of September 11.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a different subject, I return this morning to the topic of appropriations.

We have until the end of this work period to figure out a way to continue government funding, and there is good talk of a short-term continuing resolution so the government doesn’t run out of money on September 30. Yet the larger question is how this Chamber is going to proceed or not proceed with the 12 appropriations bills that fund our government.

Despite many disagreements between the majority and minority in this Chamber, the Senate has been able to produce several bipartisan budget deals even in the Trump era. The reason we have been able to do this is that both parties have been committed to working together throughout each stage of the appropriations process. Bipartisan appropriations work with it and will not work without it.

Earlier this summer, the Democrats and the Republicans negotiated the broad outlines of a budget deal in good faith. We allocated the 302(a)s and came up with a side agreement. After that, the very first step in the appropriations process is to agree, in a bipartisan way, with the allocations for the 12 subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee. That is what we did in 2018, and I believe it passed the committee unanimously—or maybe with one dissenting vote. It was passed unanimously on a bipartisan basis. The Appropriations Committee passed those 302(b) allocations 31 to 0. That is how we thought it was going to work and that we would already be running into trouble with those allocations this time around.

The Republican majority on the Appropriations Committee has unilaterally proposed putting in an additional $12 billion for the President’s border wall, taking away $5 billion of funding for Health and Human Services—desperately needed programs like healthcare and fighting opioid addiction and cancer research—and putting it into the wall. This is not OK, without our acknowledgment, and without our acceptance. The Republican majority also reprogrammed funding from other sources and backfilled money the President proposed pilfer for military construction, which has affected, I believe, 30 States.

My Republican colleagues and my friend the Republican leader know very well this will not fly with Senate Democrats. We are not going to vote for a budget that is attempting to be jammed down our throats. It puts an additional $12 billion into the wall? Forget that. So here
we are already—at step No. 1 in the appropriations process—and the spirit of bipartisanship that is necessary for this work might be melting away.

I just warn my Republican colleagues that this is not a way to produce a budget. The same people who tried to go down last year. They shut down the government and then had to walk it back. We all know what a partisan process looks like. President Trump caused the longest government shutdown in American history by demanding funding for a border wall and then by shutting down the government when Congress didn’t give it to him. Let’s not go down that exact path again 9 months later.

There is still time to get the process back on track. The Republican majority should sit down with the Democrats on the committee and, in good faith, come up with the 302(b) allocations and come up with the order by which we bring bills to the floor. Then we can get this done. We don’t have to go back to a CR. Certainly, our side wants to avoid a Republican shutdown, and we hope our Republican colleagues will have the good sense not to let President Trump lead them into that cul-de-sac. So let’s sit down and make this work. That is what we want to do, not unilaterally declare something and say, “Take it or leave it,” but work together so both sides have to give.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on gun safety, in response to the scenes of senseless violence in America throughout the month of August, Leader McConnell promised that the issue of gun safety would be “front and center” when Congress returned. The Democrats are eager to debate this issue, and we believe we have a great opportunity to come up with the bipartisan, House-passed bill on universal background checks.

Leader McConnell has also suggested that President Trump will determine if and what the Senate will vote on, so we need to know what the President might support. Throughout the month of August, frankly, the President was all over the map, saying he wanted strong background check legislation one day and then saying, the next day, we don’t need it at all. It makes no sense. The President doesn’t seem to know what he wants.

My Republican colleagues met with the President yesterday and ostensibly discussed the issue of gun safety. I asked them: Where is the President on this issue? Will he support universal background checks? We are eager to move forward with this debate. We want to vote on the H.R. 8 bill—a simple bill of universal background checks. It does not impede on the right of my legitimate gun owner. It only gets in the way of felons and spousal abusers and those adjudicated mentally ill from getting guns, and no one thinks they should get them.

The President needs to make his position clear and soon. If he continues to refuse to state his position or if he keeps flipping around, the Senate should proceed to debate this on its own. In any case, you can be sure the Democrats will not let the issue of gun safety fall by the wayside.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

TORNADO IN SIOUX FALLS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as I begin this morning, I need to mention the tornado that tore through my hometown of Sioux Falls last night. Thankfully, there appear to have been no fatalities, but there has been a lot of structural damage. I am grateful to all of the emergency responders, the electric crews, and all of those who worked through the night to keep the residents safe. My thoughts are with Sioux Falls today and with all of those who are dealing with the tornado’s aftermath.

I had the opportunity this morning to speak with Mayor Paul TenHaken, of Sioux Falls, who, as you would expect, was up throughout the night with his team. I just expressed our support to him, to his team, and to our community as they begin the process of cleanup and recovery from what was a very damaging storm.

I also talked with my wife and older daughter, who lives in Sioux Falls, both of whom were in their basements last night as, I think, most residents were. I am glad to hear that people took the necessary steps to keep themselves and their families safe.

As I have reported, so far—knock on wood—we are not aware of injuries of those who have been associated with this. Yet I will continue to monitor the situation, and my staff and I are available to help with whatever will be needed as a result of this storm.

Mr. President, it is difficult to believe it has been 18 years since the September 11 attacks. That bright September morning is seared in our minds as if it were yesterday—the shock, the sense in the days that followed, the grief and loss but also the resolve and the unity of purpose.

As always, where there is great evil, good rises up in response—that of the Congress on Capitol Hill yesterday and today and with all of those who are already serving. They deployed around the globe to fight terror and to defend freedom, and thousands of them laid down their lives. Eighteen years on, we remember the horror of that September day, but we are also lifted up by the memory of the heroes who came out of it.

For those of us who serve in Congress, the anniversary of September 11 is also a reminder of the obligation we have to provide for our Nation’s defense and to ensure that we are prepared to meet and defeat any threat. In the Senate, I am proud that both parties have worked together over the past couple years to rebuild our Nation’s military after years of its being underfunded and the strains of the War on Terror.

September 11 is also a reminder of our obligation to care for those who served with the memory of the heroes who came out of it.
rest of us can live in peace and safety. We owe them a debt we can never repay. This year, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to make the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent to ensure that first responders whose health has suffered in the wake of that attack, such as Officer Zadroga at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania will have the resources they need.

While we are on the subject of veterans, like all of my colleagues, I am saddened that Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON is retiring this year.

We were members of the same freshman class in 2004. During his time here, he has been a tireless advocate for veterans, and he will be deeply missed. Yet his hard work in the Senate as the head of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs will continue to bear fruit, and we will continue to work to implement the VA reforms he shepherded to ensure our veterans receive the care they have earned.

I was here in Washington, DC, on September 11, and I evacuated the Capitol Complex. One of the things I remember very clearly from that day were the Capitol police officers who directed us out of the buildings. We were running, danger, and they were not. They were not going anywhere until they were sure every last man and woman had made his way out.

Against that spirit of courage and self-sacrifice, evil will never ultimately triumph. May God bless all of those who stand between us and danger. May He bless the victims of September 11 and their families, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE BOWMAN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the nomination of Governor Michelle Bowman to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo as Assistant Secretary for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

First, I will speak about Governor Bowman. Michelle Bowman currently serves as a Governor on the Federal Reserve Board and was the first person to fill the Federal Reserve’s community banking seat, after her confirmation last year by a bipartisan vote of 64 to 34. Her current term expires on January 30, 2020, and President Trump has renominated her to the same position for a new 4-year term.

Prior to serving as Governor, she was the State bank commissioner of Kansas from January 2017 to November 2018. She also served as vice president of a Kansas-based community bank, Farmers & Drovers Bank, between 2010 and 2017 and served in a number of government roles.

Confirming Governor Bowman to a new 14-year term will provide the needed stability on the Board.

During her current term as Governor, she has played a crucial role at the Federal Reserve by providing the community banking perspective and highlighting their importance to people, households, and small businesses across this Nation, as well as the U.S. economy broadly. She has also contributed meaningfully toward appropriately tailoring regulations in accordance with S. 2136.

If confirmed, I am confident her experience and skill will continue to benefit the Board in promoting the effective operation of the U.S. economy and serving the public interest. I will be voting in support of Governor Bowman and urge my colleagues to vote in support of her nomination, as well, today.

Turning for a moment to another important issue regarding the Federal Reserve, I want to reinforce that maintaining the independence of the Federal Reserve is one of the utmost importance in this country.

The recent remarks made by former New York Fed President Dudley urging the Federal Reserve to sway an election by using monetary policy are incredibly troubling. The job of the Federal Reserve is to provide this Nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system. I continue to encourage the Federal Reserve to conduct its monetary policy while remaining independent of politics.

NOMINATION OF THOMAS PETER FEDDO

Mr. President, now I would like to turn to the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo for Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or what we often call CFIUS.

CFIUS plays an important role in today’s investment market by reviewing the national security implications of certain transactions involving foreign investment in the United States. Congress recognized and underscored the importance of this national security job when it repurposed the previous Assistant Secretary slot with passage of FIRMA last year.

Up until that time, the Assistant Secretary split his time between CFIUS and work on international markets, and, today, the Assistant Secretary for Investment Security is dedicated 100 percent to CFIUS responsibilities.

Mr. Feddo’s nomination comes at an important time in history, when China’s ambitions forced Congress to re-evaluate the reliance of U.S.-China commerce on the laws and regulations governing that connectivity.

FIRMA expanded the jurisdictional reach of CFIUS to better protect U.S. cutting-edge technology companies from hostile foreign takeover and influence based on a couple of concerns. First, CFIUS did not have visibility into many investments from China that might provide coercive influence over U.S. cutting-edge technology companies. Second, the Chinese were resulting in technology transfers that could convey capabilities, advancing Chinese economic and security interests while restricting the U.S. military and national security structure from leveraging that technology.

FIRMA not only increased the bandwidth of CFIUS but also expanded the resources given to it to meet the new level of today’s challenges.

The time is now to fill this sensitive vacancy.

Thomas Feddo is the ideal candidate to take up the mantle because he has the keen intellect and natural suspicions of a dedicated financial warrior. He currently leads the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Investment Security in executing Treasury’s statutory role as the chair of CFIUS during one of the most trying times that investment market has seen. For over a year now, he has led the CFIUS team at Treasury, but before that, he put in a 7-year tour at the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control, where he oversaw implementation and enforcement of some 29 U.S. sanctions programs.

As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, with a degree in naval engineering, Mr. Feddo served as a lieutenant in the Navy’s nuclear submarine force and as an officer at the Navy Antiterrorist Alert Center. Because of his unique experience and his technical education, once confirmed, Mr. Feddo will hit the ground running, moving CFIUS forward in pursuit of its continuing mission to guard U.S. technological leadership from foreign adversaries.

I look forward to continuing conversations with him on opportunities to improve America’s foreign investment review system, which requires constant vigilance. I also look forward to working with him on how we can make CFIUS programs more effective and efficient and be a faithful steward of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Feddo enjoys nearly unanimous support from stakeholders, which speaks volumes to his strong track record of experience and expertise. Thomas Feddo’s nomination was advanced by voice vote in the Senate Banking Committee on June 18, 2019, with overwhelming bipartisan support. I ask my colleagues once again to vote to confirm him to this critical post.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
As I close, I want to be clear. Passing universal background checks must be this body’s first order of business if we are serious about protecting people and helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands. I and all of my Democratic colleagues and so many others are going to keep up the pressure as long as we have to, to get this done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ‘yea.’

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Ms. SANFORD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result as announced—yeas 90, nays 2, as follows:

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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think everyone knows today is the anniversary of 9/11. Many of us here remember evacuating this very building on September 11, 2001. We knew the world would never be the same.

For the people of New York, an ordinary beautiful morning was brought to a screeching halt as the clear blue sky filled with smoke. I was at the Pentagon, the workdays in service of our Nation turned into a literal nightmare. For hundreds of air travelers, routine flights gave way to tragedy, and, thanks to the bravery of passengers and crew, incredible acts of heroism.

The Senate stands with the entire Nation as we remember the terrible events of 18 years ago today and the nearly 3,000 innocent lives that terrorists stole away. We stand in solidarity with those who still grieve, and we honor the patriotic resolve that inspired first responders, U.S. service-members, and countless Americans who dedicated themselves, that day and since, to selflessly keeping our Nation safe.

May our remembrances renew our commitment to building a world where terrorist evil has no home. May we never forget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I join the leader. Eighteen years ago, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, my country, and our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania.

More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day. I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who led me on the way up, and a firefighter whom I went around the city doing blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year we correctly and appropriately pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those whom we lost and think of them. The day after 9/11, I called for every American to wear the flag. I wear this flag every day. I have worn it every day since then in memory of those whom we lost.

We also remember our resiliency and the resiliency of New Yorkers, the brave firefighters, police officers, and
ordinary citizens who rushed to the Towers.

The generosity—I will never forget a man who had a shoe store about two blocks north of the Towers who just gave shoes to all the people. Some men and women who had to run 90 flight of stairs to find their shoes behind.

I remember the next day, when President Bush sent us back up to New York, and the empty skies, a bunch of F-16s around our plane going down there, smelling the smell of burnt flesh and death in the air, and seeing over 1,000 people lined up with little signs, because we didn’t know who was gone and who might be found: Have you seen my sister Mary? Have you seen my son Bob?

It was an awful day and a day we live with, but we know our resilience. Many predicted that Lower Manhattan would be a ghost town forevermore. It has more people, more jobs, and more business than before 9/11. Many thought that America would succumb to the evil brutality of the terrorists. We have fought back very successfully.

We think, finally, of those who are dying now as a result of their rushing to the Towers into the hours and days after. And we are also grateful that this body has now fully funded both the health fund and the fund to see that the families are taken care of.

It is an amazing moment. I live with it all the time. I ride my bike around the city, and every seventh or eighth block has the name of a street commemorating someone who died—firefighter this and police officer that.

But America, New York, and all of us have not been beaten by the terrorists and have not been beaten by adversity. On this issue, we have come together, and we will prevail.

I ask unanimous consent that there be a minute of silence in memory of those who were lost both that day and who are still being lost because of their heroism in the days after.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIVES LOST IN THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

(Moment of silence.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cabaniss nomination?

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted “aye.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Barraso Gardner
Blackburn Grassley
Blumenthal Hassan
Boozman Inhofe
Burr Hyde-Smith
Capito Johnson
Collins Lee
Cornyn Scott (FL)
Cotton Sinema
Cramer Sullivan
Crapo Thune
Crawford Young

NAYS—38

Baldwin Hassan
Blumenthal Henrich
Brown Merkley
Cantwell Murray
Cardin Peters
Carper Reed
Casey Stabenow
Cortez Masto Tester
Duckworth Whitehouse
Durbin Wyden
Eskimo
Ernst
Fischer
Gillibrand

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander Bennet Booker
Harris Klobuchar Roberts
Sanders Warren

The nominee was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior senatorial legislative clerk read the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Byrne nomination?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior senatorial legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted “aye.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin Fischer Perdue
Barraso Gardner Peters
Blackburn Grassley Rick
Blumenthal Hassan Romney
Boozman Hawley Rosen
Burr Hyden Rounds
Capito Inhofe Rubio
Cassidy Johnson Sasse
Collins Johnson Scott (FL)
Cunton Shelby Scott (SC)
Cramer Sinema Smith
Crado Sullivan Tester
Crapo Thune

NAYS—11

Brown Markley Schumer
Cantwell Merkley Stabenow
Cardin Murray Wyden
Cortez Masto Van Hollen
Duckworth Van Hollen
Durbin Whitehouse
Eskimo Moran Wicker
Ernst Murkowski Young

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander Bennet Booker
Harris Klobuchar Roberts
Sanders Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will reconsider the consideration of this nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior senatorial legislative clerk read the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.
September 11, 2019

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, today we commemorate the solemn anniversary of the attacks on 9/11/2001.

If you ask anybody who is old enough to remember where they were that day, I bet they can tell you. It is one of those rare moments that defines an entire generation.

I have always said that it is etched in my memory as the only other event in my lifetime that might rise to that level of shock and horror, and that is the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Eighteen years ago today, I was in Austin, talking on the phone to then-Governor Rick Perry. When I hung up the phone, my wife said, “You need to see this,” pointing to the TV set. That was just as the second plane hit the World Trade Center, and we all know what came after.

It was the same image that millions of Americans struggled to understand on that morning and still struggle to comprehend today—how someone could be so evil and so determined to take innocent lives.

September 11 serves as a dividing line in American history. For people like me, there is before and there is after, but for an entire generation of younger people, there is really only after. I believe this 18th anniversary carries special weight because those young people who have only lived in a post-9/11 world will now be able to vote in our elections, serve in our military, and help shape the future of our country.

It is a reminder of our commitment as a nation to carry out the promise we made in the wake of the attack to “never forget”—never forget.

As Americans, we must remain vigilant, and we must remain with a strong sense of purpose and a strong moral clarity regarding confronting evil in all its forms. We vow to carry the memory of the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day in our hearts, the sense of patriotism that welled up inside of each of us, and the determination never to be intimidated, and never to back down.

Today, we remember the families who lost loved ones that day, the first responders who ran not away from but toward the danger, and the commitment of our Armed Forces, who fight to eradicate terrorism around the globe each and every day.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. President, on another matter, for a quarter of a century, the North American Free Trade Agreement has guided our trade relationship with Mexico and Canada. When NAFTA was created, it sought to remove the barriers that impeded free and fair trade to provide benefits to all three countries.

While this agreement has certainly had its share of critics and champions, I think there is no doubt—that NAFTA has been a benefit to the United States.

Last year, U.S. goods and services trade with Mexico and Canada totaled nearly $1.4 trillion. Across every industry, from major companies to small businesses, an estimated 12 million American jobs rely on trade with our NAFTA partners—12 million.

The importance of maintaining strong trade relationships is clearly understood in my home State of Texas, and that is in large part because—and this will not surprise you—last year, Texas exported nearly $110 billion in goods to Mexico, our next-door neighbor, 35 percent of our State’s total exports.

We also imported more than $307 billion in goods from Mexico, including everything from motor vehicle parts to computer equipment, to tractors and avocados. It is not uncommon to see certain products, like automobile parts, crossing the border multiple times during the manufacturing process before eventually making their way to the customer.

NAFTA has fueled the economies of every State across this country, but a lot has changed since NAFTA was ratified in 1993. At that time, the internet was in its infancy, smartphones didn’t exist, and shopping at brick-and-mortar stores was the norm. Countless economic advancements and our digitalized marketplace have fundamentally changed the global trade landscape. So it is clearly time to modernize NAFTA and bring it up to current needs.

I was glad when the heads of all three countries signed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement last November and took major steps just to get that far, but the new NAFTA—or, as we call it, the USMCA—takes into account businesses and practices that didn’t even exist when NAFTA existed, things like 2-day shipping, online micro-retailers, and digital products like e-books and music.

The USMCA will require Mexico and Canada to raise their de minimis shipment value levels, which will allow certain classes of shipments to enter all three countries with expedited entry procedures. That is a big win for small and medium-sized businesses, which often lack the resources to pay customs duties and taxes.

Overall, the USMCA takes steps to advance the digital economy, which accounted for nearly 7 percent of our total economy in 2017.

A few months ago, the International Trade Commission publicly released its analysis of the economic impact of the USMCA, which shows some positive indicators. The ITC concluded that, within 6 years, the USMCA will raise real GDP in the United States by $88.2 billion and lead to the creation of 176,000 new jobs.

We can also expect a more than $33 billion increase in exports and more than $31 billion in imports. That is great news for North American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses that will reap the benefits of this agreement.

When I was traveling around the State during August, one of the most frequent questions I encountered from my constituents was this: When is Congress going to pass the USMCA? I assured them that I am just as eager as they are to see Congress ratify this agreement, but we are still waiting on the House and the administration to iron out their differences.

I know that the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Lighthizer, and Secretary Mnuchin are having constructive conversations with the Speaker of the House, and she has set a process by which the USMCA can provide its necessary input into the final product, but we are all waiting to see the Speaker turn on the green light to allow them to start the process—sooner, hopefully, rather than later.

I want that, historically speaking, the closer we get to an election, the more challenging it is to get things passed, particularly in a divided Congress, like we have now. So I hope we can get this process moving soon.

Businesses, jobs, and communities in Texas rely on a strong relationship between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. While NAFTA has benefited all three countries, it is not able to propel our economies into the future. That is why the USMCA is so important.

The USMCA increases goods’ market access. It supports small businesses. As I said, it supports digital trade, safeguards intellectual property, supports our agriculture sector, and keeps jobs right here at home.

Free and fair trade isn’t just good news for our economy. It is good news for the people behind it. This is a trade agreement built for the 21st century, and it is time for Congress to pass the USMCA and provide greater stability and more opportunities for North American workers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATION OF DALE CABANISS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, just a little bit earlier today, the Senate voted to confirm President Trump’s nomination of Dale Cabaniss to lead the Office of Personnel Management.

I voted against this nominee, but now that she is confirmed, it is more important than ever for the Senate and the House to fulfill our oversight duties to protect our civil servants from political interference. I know the Presiding Officer has a keen interest in this subject as well, in his capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, overseeing Federal civil service, and I appreciate his work on that front.

In order to do their jobs for the American people, our Federal employees must be able to perform their duties free of politics. They must be judged on the merits of their work, not political favoritism or cronyism. They must be able to present factual information and analysis without fear of retribution. Yet time and again, we
have seen that this President, President Trump, views civil servants as his adversaries. The President has sought to silence those whose word or works contradict him, even when the facts are clear. We saw this recently when the National Weather Service tried to calm residents in the State of Alabama after President Trump falsely stated that Hurricane Dorian would put them at severe risk. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross threatened to fire the agency’s leadership after they corrected the President’s false statements about Hurricane Dorian and Alabama. Just within the last hour, the New York Times is reporting that the order to change the statements at NOAA came directly from the White House in the form of a directive from the Acting Chief of Staff to the President, Mick Mulvaney.

We have also seen this pattern at other times. We saw President Trump stand in Congress with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, while President Trump sided with Putin’s claims about noninterference in the 2016 Presidential elections, and where President Trump threw our own U.S. intelligence agency under the bus.

These assaults on the Federal civil service and the efforts to undermine the integrity of the Federal civil service have also included an assault on Federal employees. This administration and its Trump agency heads are clueless when they are organized and have representatives who can speak on their behalf. Many—not all, but many—of the Trump agency heads have repeatedly refused to comply with the law and to bargain in good faith with their workers. Instead of trying to negotiate, they have tried to impose contracts and terms unilaterally. This has already happened at the Social Security Administration, where agency management willfully ignored the particular hostilities to the unions representing their workforce. Some of these issues are now tied up in the courts, but I would hope we could work on a bipartisan basis to address these challenges.

Now, President Trump is trying to abolish the Office of Personnel Management. That brings me to the nomination of Ms. Cabaniss, because she will be directed to preside over the dismantlement of the agency—that is, if the President has his way. I know those of us in Congress with a different view will be weighing in as well.

The Office of Personnel Management is an independent Federal agency with an absolutely vital mission—to strengthen and protect the Federal civil service system. Their mission is to protect the integrity of our Federal civil service and prevent it from being hijacked by political forces.

I know there has been a lot of talk that this is all about civil service reform. As I look at the proposals, I don’t see it that way. I see these proposals as an attack on the institution that defends our civil service system.

The Office of Personnel Management needs a strong, independent leader who will protect the Federal workforce from partisan interference and defend agencies from the administration’s attacks. After looking at Ms. Cabaniss’s record, I am not convinced she is the one to lead OPM. When she chaired the Federal Labor Relations Authority, morale was dead last among small Federal agencies. That is the agency that is supposed to resolve disputes between Federal agencies and union workers. Federal workers were overturned under Ms. Cabaniss’s jurisdiction.

OPM’s mission is vital to the success of our Federal civil service and their ability to deliver services to the American people. We need a leader who is going to stand up for the integrity of that system, not one who is going to preside over the dismantlement of that agency. So I hope we can work on a bipartisan basis so that this country preserves one of its vital assets, which is a nonpartisan civil service.

Presidents come and Presidents go, and Presidents, of course, give direction to the different agencies, but we will be doing a great disservice to the people of this country if we allow political cronyn to seep into this system and create an environment where people fear speaking out, telling the truth, and providing facts.

I want to take this opportunity today, as we discuss the nomination of the Office of Personnel Management, to raise that larger issue, and I hope we will be united in that effort because lots of important work needs to be done.

I yield the remainder of my time.
are committed from deep down in their heart. They love these kids. They love the purpose they are serving, and they are thinking ahead. They are thinking outside the box. These are not institutions that are so cookie cutter that they are not willing to explore opportunities. They are seizing every one of those opportunities.

I have seen firsthand, though, increasing concern from our HBCU community, giving a significance, it is frustrating that some of these students have to continue to struggle. Public and private HBCUs face extensive capital project needs but have few funding sources to rely on.

On top of that, the Government Accountability Office found that HBCUs’ average endowment is half the size of a similar sized non-HBCU. We have to change that. We have to make sure we provide to these schools because the bottom line is, they have no safety net. They work to stay afloat in the middle of things. The bottom line is, they have no safety net. If they have no safety net, neither do the students they serve.

This time last year, I was talking about legislation I had introduced called the Strengthening Minority Serving Institutions Act, which would have permanently extended and increased mandatory funding to all minority-serving institutions. That bill was supported by one-quarter of the Senate. Unfortunately, it was simply supported by all Democrats. We could not get the bipartisan support that I hope we will get in the future. However, now we are here and only have 19 days left in the fiscal year, and these schools still have no certainty about whether these critical funds will continue to be available.

We hear a lot in this body about the need to make sure we continue to fund government, that we continue to fund our military, and about how devastating even a continuing resolution might be to the Defense Department because it doesn’t allow the military to plan. I agree with that. I see it. This is $255 million that all of a sudden is going to be cut off completely from schools that have relied on it, that have planned, that have done their budgets around it. We owe it to them. We owe it to them to make sure that we get this funding because they give so much back to us.

Instead of access to quality education should not be a partisan issue, and I worked over the last year to find a solution that I think should receive and could receive broad bipartisan support. I believe we have that in the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Exploring New sculpture Act. It is called the FUTURE Act, which I have introduced with my colleague Senator Tim Scott and Representatives Alma Adams and Mark Walker in the House. The FUTURE Act reauthorizes funding for the next 2 fiscal years, maintaining just level funding of $255 million a year. It is the least we could do.

Our bill checks all the boxes. It helps institutions in 43 States. It is bipartisan, it is bicameral, and it is paid for. Let’s not delay any longer. With this important bill, let’s get this to the floor. Let’s come up with something so we can help people how important these institutions are and just as important, we show the American people that, doggone it, we can get something done. That is the most frustrating part I heard about when I went back to Alabama over the recess: When are you going to get something done, Jones?

Well, it is difficult. You all know it. It is difficult, but this is a piece of legislation that ought to receive support in this body and across the aisle, across the Capitol in the House.

This week we have a lot of the HBCU presidents and administrators who are on Capitol Hill. They are coming up for their own benefit but also for the Congressional Black Caucus events that are working to talk to us. They are up here on the Hill. It would be the perfect time to get this to the floor. I don’t see it on the schedule anywhere, but it would be the perfect time.

As people are looking here, as they are watching us and listening to us, they know we support their institutions. Let’s show them we support their institutions.

I urge my colleagues to support the FUTURE Act. That is good with us. Sponsoring legislation and, in turn, support our Nation’s minority-serving institutions of higher education. Their graduates deserve the same quality education as any other student, and they deserve a fair shot at a successful future. Let’s get this done. Let’s do our job and get this done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am going to be on the floor over the course of about an hour or so by Members of the Senate who are desperate for our colleagues to wake up and recognize that the time for action to quell the epidemic of gun violence in this country is now. It was also last week. It was also a month ago and a year ago and 6 years ago. It was also nearly 7 years ago, after the shooting in my State of Connecticut that felled 20 little 6- and 7-year-olds attending first grade at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

We tend to pay attention to the mass shootings—the ones in Odessa, El Paso, Dayton, and Newtown—but every single day in this country, 9 people die from gunshot wounds. Many of those are suicides, but many of them are homicides, and others are accidental shootings. When you total it up, we are losing about 33,000 people every year from gun violence and gunshot wounds. That is such a self-meaningful to you because it is a big country, but how does that compare to the rest of the world or at least the rest of the high-income world? Well, that is about 30 times higher than other countries of similar income and of similar situation as the United States. Something different is happening here. It is not that we have more criminal illess or that we have less mental health treatment. It is not that we have less resources going into law enforcement. The difference is that we have guns spread out all over this Nation, many of them illegal and many of them of caliber and capacity that were designed for the military in which this slaughter becomes predictable. We have a chance to do something about it right now in the U.S. Congress. We have a chance to try to find some way to come together over some commonsense measures.

I just got off the phone—a 40-minute conversation with the President of the United States. I was glad that he was willing to take that amount of time with me, Senator Manchin, and Senator Toomey and Senator Schatz and Senator Flake. We know we can figure out a way to get Republicans and Democrats on board with a proposal to expand background checks to more gun sales in this Nation. In particular, we were talking about expanding background checks on commercial gun sales. That is certainly not as far as I would like to go, but I understand that part of my job here is to argue for my beliefs and my convictions but then try to find a compromise.

There is no single legislative initiative that will solve all of these issues, but what we know is, if you want to take the biggest bite out of gun crime as quickly as possible, increasing the number of background checks done in this country is the way to go. All we are trying to do here is make sure that when you buy a gun, you prove that you aren’t someone with a serious criminal history or that you aren’t someone who has a serious history of mental illness.

In 2017, about 170,000 people in this country went into a store, tried to buy a gun, and were denied that sale because they had an offense on their record or a period of time in an inpatient psychiatric unit, which prohibited them from buying a gun. Of those 170,000 sales that were denied, 39 percent of them were convicted felons who had tried to come in and buy a gun, many of them knowing they were likely prohibited from buying those guns.

The problem is, that isn’t a barrier to buying a weapon—being denied a sale at a gun store. Why do we know that? It is because just a few weeks ago in Texas, a gunman who went in and shot up 7 people who died and 23 who were injured failed a background check because he had been diagnosed by a clinician as mentally ill and had triggered one of those prohibiting clauses, but then he went and bought the gun from a gun store, knowing that he wouldn’t have to go through a background check if he bought the weapon from a place in Texas that didn’t have
Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow my colleague from Connecticut. The President has made a powerful and eloquent presentation of the lives that have been lost, the stakes of this decision, and the clear path we have—an opportunity and an obligation to save lives.

Let me begin where he ended. The President of the United States has an obligation here to lead. If he does, we will have legislation that will literally save thousands of lives. He has an obligation, as we do, to find a way to save these lives. All of us have seen all too often the needless, senseless, and unprincipled violence that has been done by guns in the name of freedom. We focus on the mass killings, but those 90 deaths a day consist of the drive-by, one-by-one shootings in Hartford and Bridgeport and towns and communities around the country. No one is immune. No family is untouched, through friends and relatives and workplaces and through suicides, which are a major part of those 90 deaths every day in this country. Domestic violence is made five times more deadly when there is a gun in the home.

The President must not only come to the table but lead. And if he will not lead, get out of the way because we are trying our best to reach out across the aisle and come to some conclusion to save some lives. I will tell you that the President is a man of peace, that moral signal of compassion and concern that we will send, will have a value, as well, next to and beside the actual lives we will save.

Leilah Hernandez was 15 years old. She was a high school student when she was shot by the gunman in Odessa, TX. Her grandmother Nora explained how Leilah would spend a lot of her time with family and would drop by after school to visit her grandmother. She described Leilah as a happy girl who became a quiet leader on the basketball court.

Lois Oglesby was 27 when she was killed in the Dayton shooting. Her friend Derasha Merrett said: "She was a wonderful mother, a wonderful person." According to the children’s father, Oglesby faced him after she was shot, saying "Babe, I just got shot in my head. I need to get to my kids." She died that day in Dayton.

Jordan and Andre Anchondo were 25 and 22 years old when they were amongst the 22 who were killed in El Paso. The couple had dropped their 5-year-old daughter at cheer practice, and then they went to Walmart to pick up some back-to-school supplies. Their daughter was only feeling unwell with them. He survived the shooting, probably because it looks like Jordan died shielding her baby, while Andre jumped in front of the two of them. The baby was found under Jordan’s body and miraculously suffered only two broken fingers.

On August 31 in Buffalo, NY, Norzell Aldridge saw an altercation happening from a distance. He went over to the altercation to try to defuse the situation. He was a youth league football coach. As he tried to deal with this altercation, he was shot and killed. One of his friends said: "The guy died a hero trying to save somebody else’s life. He loved kids and being a part of the kids in football with him said: ‘His legacy will always be never give up, give it your all, and now his legacy is through his son.

You haven’t heard of Norzell because he didn’t die in a mass shooting. He is just one of the routine gun murders that happen every single day in this country. It matters just as much as those that occurred in El Paso and Dayton and Odessa, and we can do something about those right now.

I am begging the President to come to the table and agree to a commonsense background checks expansion bill that will save lives. I am begging my colleagues here to do the same—figure out how to get to the political liability in it for you. There are thousands and thousands of lives to be saved.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow my colleague from Connecticut after his powerful and eloquent description of the lives that have been lost, the stakes of this decision, and the clear path we have—an opportunity and an obligation to save lives.

Let me begin where he ended. The President of the United States has an obligation here to lead. If he does, we will have legislation that will literally save thousands of lives. He has an obligation, as we do, to find a way to save these lives. All of us have seen all too often the needless, senseless, and unprincipled violence that has been done by guns in the name of freedom. We focus on the mass killings, but those 90 deaths a day consist of the drive-by, one-by-one shootings in Hartford and New Haven and Bridgeport and cities and towns and communities around the country. No one is immune. No family is untouched, through friends and relatives and workplaces and through suicides, which are a major part of those 90 deaths every day in this country. Domestic violence is made five times more deadly when there is a gun in the home.

The President must not only come to the table but lead. And if he will not lead, get out of the way because we have an obligation to move forward now and take advantage of this historic opportunity and obligation.

Just weeks ago, in one 24-hour period, massacres in El Paso and Dayton left 31 people dead. Eleven days ago, a shooter in Odessa, TX, killed another seven. Communities are forever changed by the events that so shock our Nation. The trauma and the stress done in schools to our children by the drills they conduct, by the anticipation that
is raised, by the fear that is engendered—the sights and sounds of gun violence echo and reverberate across our land.

I remember the sights and sounds of the parents at the firehouse in Sandy Hook on the day in 2012 when 20 beautiful children and sixth grade educators died. The firehouse is where parents went to find out whether their children were OK. The way they found out was either their children appeared or they did not return. In the cries and sobbing they experienced, the expressions of anguish, the look on those faces, it was only the beginning of their nightmare. It transformed Connecticut. What we did in Connecticut was adopt commonsense measures and comprehensive steps to stop gun violence.

The lesson of Connecticut is not only that those steps have reduced gun violence, including homicide, but also that States with the strongest laws are still at the mercy of the ones with the weakest because guns have no respect for State boundaries. They cross State lines, and they do damage and death in States like Connecticut with strong gun laws. Through the Iron Pipeline, it comes from other States to our south.

Since that day at Sandy Hook, there have been 2,218 mass shootings in the United States, and over 2,000 times, parents have sat, as did those parents at Sandy Hook, and waited to know whether their children were OK. Children who left in the morning with no inkling about the violence that was to unfold.

There is no reason people have to live this way in the United States of America. America has no greater proportion of mental health issues than any other country. We have a higher rate of gun violence. We can prevent it through commonsense steps and comprehensive steps that will save as many lives as possible. It is the possibility of keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people. That is the principle of the two main proposals likely to come before this body.

To keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, do it through background checks, which have to apply universally to all States for them to be effective. Experts estimate that 80 percent of firearms acquired for criminal purposes are obtained from unlicensed sellers. A study funded by the President showed that States have universal background check laws experienced 52 percent fewer mass shootings. Background checks prevent people who are dangerous to themselves or others from buying firearms, and, likewise, emergency risk protection orders take guns away from people who are dangerous to themselves or others. These two concepts have a common goal, the same end. They achieve it by complementary means.

The vast majority of perpetrators of mass violence exhibit clear signs that they are about to carry out an attack. The shooter in Parkland, as my colleague Senator Lindsey Graham has said, all but took out an ad in the newspaper saying that he was going to kill people at that school in Parkland. The police were repeatedly alerted to his violent behavior, including a call from a family member who begged the police to recover his weapon.

Today, in Florida, she could ask for an extreme risk protection order under a Florida law signed by my colleague Governor Ron DeSantis. In the 17 jurisdictions that have passed emergency risk protection order laws, enforcers can petition courts to temporarily restrict access to firearms with due process.

At a hearing this morning in the Judiciary Committee, we learned from one of the judges in Broward County who enforce these laws that they have worked to prevent shootings, including many suicides, and they enable mental health help to be available as well. These laws prevent suicide. The majority of those gun deaths in the United States, in fact, are suicide, which is accounting for 60 percent of those 90 people killed every day.

Emergency risk protection orders are effective, but they are resource intensive, and that is why Senator Graham and I have worked hard and we are close to finalizing a measure that will provide grants and incentives to other States that are considering or may consider these kinds of laws. Together with Senator Graham, I have been working hard on this legislation, and we are close—after extensive discussion, not only between us but with the White House and with our colleagues—to a bill that can muster bipartisan support and pass this body.

The Charleston loophole must be closed. I have been leading that fight in the Senate to fix all provisions for years. The House passed bipartisan legislation on background checks, H.R. 8, and on the Charleston loophole that would fix the problem of would-be murderers having access to guns simply because information is unavailable within the time limit that is set.

Guns should not be sold simply because a deadline for a background check is not met. Most are done literally within seconds or a minute, but some require more extensive work. There is no reason to wait to pass these measures.

Neither should we wait to pass a safe storage bill that we believe would have prevented deaths like Ethan Song’s, perishing in Guilford. This past January, Ethan Song would have celebrated his 16th birthday, but a year earlier, he was accidentally killed by a gun stored in his friend’s closet, accessible to him. His friends and I, and I implore the President, have been working with thousands of families, like Ethan Song, thousands of other families across America lose children in gun violence every year. It is a parent’s worst nightmare, and, in many cases, safe storage, including possibly Sandy Hook, would have prevented a mountain of heartache and a river of tears.

The Songs have been so strong and courageous, as have been the survivors of the victims’ families in Sandy Hook. They have been the powerful faces and voices of this effort and the most effective advocates.

The groups that have been formed in these past years, raising awareness and mobilizing every town—Guilford, Bethel, Newtown, Connecticut, Sandy Hook Promise, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action are only some of them. They are mounting a political movement, and we need to hear their voices.

History will judge us harshly if we fail to heed that call for commonsense reform. The voters will judge harshly, as well, the colleagues who fail to heed that call.

We need to keep in mind that gun violence is not one problem. There is no one solution. There is no panacea. We need to aim at all of these measures, including a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The House, just this week, approved a ban on high-capacity magazines, as well as an emergency risk protection order statute.

Gun violence is many problems—not one. It is the loopholes in the background check system; it is the failure to safely store firearms; it is an arbitrary deadline for completing a background check; and it is the lack of emergency risk protection orders that take guns away from people who are dangerous to themselves or others with due process.

I have worked on this issue for more than two decades—almost three decades since I was attorney general first elected in the State of Connecticut. There has been progress. The progress that has been achieved results. Now it is this body’s obligation to take that next step. I implore the President of the United States to state his support, which my colleagues across the aisle have said is necessary for them to do what they think is responsible. I say to them: If the President fails to lead, you must do so.

We must continue to fight and never give up and never give away for the sake of the survivors and families who said from this Gallery when we failed to act in the wake of Sandy Hook: Shame. Shame on us, in fact, if we fail to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I join with many of my colleagues to make a pretty simple request, and that is, the issue of gun violence in this country requires us to take action.

The Senate needs to do what it has historically been in place to do. The President is in his first term, and I am in my third term. The U.S. Senate is the place in which we debate and deliberate on issues. We are a deliberative body in the world—at least that is what I thought I was running for.

It is time for Leader McConnell to bring up gun safety legislation—well
past time to bring up gun safety legislation—and for us to act and do something about gun violence in this country. Yes, we hope the President will lead, will provide that leadership that we have always admired—one of these mass shootings—that the President is engaged. We need his leadership to bring us together on sensible gun safety legislation.

The United States is an outlier on gun violence. When you compare the amount of gun violence in the United States to that in the other developed countries of the world, in every category, multiply it 10, 20, or 30—more likely for gun violence episodes here in the United States than other developed countries of the world.

We have far more private ownership of guns in this country than other industrial nations of the world. We have far more mass killings. We have far more gun-related suicides, and the list goes on and on.

So we need to take action. This is one area where we don't want to be the outlier. We want safe communities, and inaction is not an answer.

Yes, there are many things we could do. Look, the people of Maryland and the people throughout this country have been victims of this gun violence. In my own State of Maryland, we had a mass shooting in June of last year at the Capital Gazette—outrageous. People trying to do their jobs were killed. We have had, of course, school shootings. It is time for this Congress to take steps to reduce this risk. Inaction is not an option.

What should we do? As my previous colleague said, there are a lot of things we should be doing. We should take a look at this now. It is reasonable for there to be private ownership of military-style weapons. I think there shouldn't be. That is certainly a bill we can bring up.

We have seen these assault weapons used in a lot of mass attacks, where you have multiple casualties in a matter of seconds, where there is no possibility for law enforcement to respond to keep people safe during that short period of time.

We would get rid of the high-capacity magazines. I know the House is working on that. That is something that, again, is not necessary for the purposes of recreation.

We should identify extreme-risk individuals and be able to put a flag on their ability to purchase a weapon. We need to invest in mental health. All of that is important.

The bill we can pass today is a universal background check. The House has passed it. It has been here since February of this year. For 7 months, that bill has been here—universal background checks. It was passed with a strong bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives and is consistent with the Second Amendment. The Supreme Court has said the right is not absolute, that certain individuals are not entitled to have firearms because of what they have done.

Section 8 of the bill provides forms to determine whether individuals are entitled to own a firearm or not. Of course, in 1993, we passed the presale process for licensed dealers because that is where guns were being purchased back in 1993. So if you buy a gun from a licensed dealer, you have to go through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. As my colleague has said, it takes a matter of seconds. You can get cleared or not cleared, and it works.

Three million guns have been denied a transfer as a result of this check, but there are loopholes in it because of the way commerce is handled today. It doesn't cover private sales. Internet sales weren't even available back when we passed it. We have to close those loopholes, and it will save lives. States that have closed these loopholes have a lower amount of gun violence than those States that have not.

We need a national answer to this. A person can go into Virginia or West Virginia where the laws are different. We need one Federal law to deal with closing this loophole.

Today and every day in this country 100 people are killed through gun violence. We can't wait. We have to act. That is what this body is best at.

So I encourage President Trump to lead on this issue. I know he had some meetings this week. I encourage our leader to allow this body to take up the universal background check bill that passed the House of Representatives by a strong bipartisan vote. Let us get that done. Let us tell the people of this country that we will not be silent and we will not be inactive in regard to the amount of gun violence in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in discussing our country's horrific gun violence epidemic. I have risen to speak of this problem many times over the years, and to be honest it is exasperating to have it over and over again.

El Paso, Dayton, Gilroy, Odessa, Midland, Brownsville in New York—the list goes on and on—city after city, community after community, devastated by gun violence. We witness these tragedies. We watch heart-breaking and nightmarish footage on our televisions. We offer our thoughts and prayers. We have heavy hearts, deep disappointment and horror, and still nothing. The Senate has still not passed any meaningful legislation to address this problem.

So here we are once again in this Chamber. Democrats are speaking out on behalf of the American people, on behalf of the citizens who are protesting and demanding action, and on behalf of our constituents who call and write to us every single day for commonsense legislation to help end this gun violence that plagues our communities.

We aren't just speaking out on behalf of Democrats because gun violence doesn't ask what political party you support. It touches the lives of everyone in this country. The majority of the American people—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans—all want action. They want their schools to be safe. They want a place to go and worship and be safe. They want to go and buy their back-to-school supplies and books.

Let's be really clear about the root of this inaction. It is greed. It is corruption. It is the rot at the heart of Washington. The NRA is no different. The NRA cares more about gun sales than those on the other side of the country. They care more about the gun manufacturers than they do our communities. Too many of my colleagues just don't have the guts to stand up to the NRA.

There are three effective solutions sitting right in front of us, all of which are bipartisan, all of which have been voted on before, getting lots of bipartisan support. I reject the false argument that because these commonsense proposals may not stop every single instance of gun violence that it is not worth doing them. We should do these. It makes no sense to stop doing the commonsense things just because it doesn't stop every gun crime because the truth is, it is time to do something.

We can and should ban assault weapons and large magazines. No civilian needs access to weapons of war. Those weapons are designed solely to kill large numbers of people very quickly, in minutes and seconds, and our military train heavily to be able to use those weapons.

We can and should pass my legislation to criminalize gun trafficking. It will help slow the tide of illegal guns into cities like New York and Chicago and across the country where guns that are illegal are sold directly out of the back of a truck to a gang member or a criminal. It is one of the things that law enforcement keeps asking us to do and have been asking for a decade.

We can and should pass the red flag laws that are designed to make sure people with violent tendencies cannot have access to guns, but the first and most obvious solution should be a cakewalk for this Chamber, and that is universal background checks. This solution is supported by the vast majority of Americans. This bipartisan bill has already passed our House, but it is not even being considered right now for a vote in the Senate.

So it is really on Senator MCCONNELL right now. It is on him. It is his decision whether to protect our communities or not—to just protect our kids.

As a mom, when there was a shooting less than a mile from Theo and Henry's...
school, all I could think about was getting there as fast as I possibly could just to make sure my child was safe. That is the fear every parent in America has today. We shouldn’t accept living in an America where we have to worry that our kids aren’t safe in school. We actually can’t go to a shelter-in-place drills instead of mathemathical drills. We shouldn’t accept that world. We shouldn’t accept a world where you can’t be at Bible study with your friends. We shouldn’t accept a world where you can’t go to a concert or go to a movie and know that you are safe, but that is the world we are living in.

The truth about all of this is, right now at this moment, we have Americans who are fueled by hate hunting down other people with weapons of war. That has to change.

We do have the will to do this. Congress can show courage. Congress can do the right thing, so why not do it now. The American people are begging us to just have an ounce of strength in our spines, just an ounce of courage to stand up to special interests, to greed and corruption and lies that distort this debate.

And we are stronger than this. We are better than this. Let’s protect our kids. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the same issue my colleagues from New York just spoke to, and I know others have preceded her on the floor. I am grateful to be a part of this discussion today.

What I could do—but I know I don’t have to because it is so well known now—is go through the three or four most recent mass shootings which are the ones that get most attention, but I don’t have to do that because we know so well what happened just in the last number of weeks.

One way to remember them, of course, is by the names of the communities: El Paso, Dayton, Midland, Odessa—names like that where everyone in the country knows exactly what we are talking about because of what happened there. What we don’t talk about enough, of course, are the places where there is daily gun violence and horror and tragedy and death and grievous injury because it doesn’t get the same attention.

Tragically, another way to go through a list of tragedies that are connected to this awful epidemic of gun violence—this uniquely American problem of gun violence—is to use numbers. These numbers are now emblazoned on the communities that were so tragically destroyed, in large measure, by these events. In El Paso it was 22, in Dayton it was 9, and in Midland and Odessa it was 7. So doing the math, that is 38. That is the number of people killed in just three places. Of course, there are a lot of other deaths between those tragic events which aren’t getting the same attention. That is another way to measure—38 killed between August 3 and August 31. Another number is the number of injured. I think the number now is just about 76, just in those three tragedies. So there were 38 killed and 76 injured in three American communities.

One of the most disturbing realities after the fact is what happened in Dayton in just such a short timeframe. I know that timeframe. We could probably cite the names as well, but we know that in about 32 seconds in Dayton, 9 people were killed and 27 were injured. Law enforcement, the folks we often call the good guys—good guys not just with guns but good guys with a lot of training and a heroic willingness and heroic commitment to get to a place of danger to try to apprehend a criminal and to try to save people. In Dayton, law enforcement officials got there faster than Superman could get there, and it wasn’t fast enough. In those 32 seconds 9 were gone and 27 were injured.

We know that in Midland and Odessa, TX, the authorities reported that the gunman was prohibited from purchasing a firearm at one point, but he was able to buy one and shot six law enforcement officers because he purchased his assault-style weapon through a private sale. This is further evidence of why we need a background check bill that is rigorous—not just a background check bill but is wide enough and rigorous enough to stop the guy in Texas who brought such horror to that community, including, as one of the wounded, a 17-month-old child.

We also know that through the month of August, in that same time period I mentioned, the 3rd to the 31st—but if you include every day of that month, the United States has experienced 38 mass shootings. So there were 38 times when four or more people were involved, which is the definition of a mass shooting.

When I think about it in terms of the scale of it—and I don’t think there is anyone who would disagree with this—this is a public health epidemic, and it is plaguing our cities and our communities every single day. What we are talking about, in terms of the perpetrators of this violence, they are not just criminals, they are domestic terrorists, and we should call them that. That is why I argue to remember their names or, frankly, even speak their names, but we should remember what they are: domestic terrorists who are, frankly, in terms of the whole scale of the problem, causing more problems in America than any other terrorists are. These domestic terrorists are using high-powered, military-style assault weapons to kill our children and to kill our families.

We know that last October, the most deadly active violence against the Jewish community in American history occurred at the Tree of Life synagogue in the city of Pittsburgh. Eleven were killed there and six were injured, including four of the six being law enforcement officers who, again, got there very quickly—maybe not in seconds but in minutes. Of course, getting there that fast, with all of their training, all of their courage, and all of their commitment, is too much because even though they got there in just minutes, that wasn’t fast enough because of the nature of the weapon and because of the assailant.

And now, about this problem. The two biggest cities in my home State are Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Philadelphia being the largest. Days before the horrible weekend of El Paso and Dayton, a mass shooting occurred in Southwest Philadelphia that left a 21-year-old dead and five others injured. Because only one person was killed, it is not ranked as a mass shooting. That happened in that same timeframe.

On August 14, an individual in North Philadelphia barricaded himself in a house, shot and shot six, with an assault-style weapon. The shooter lasted nearly 8 hours and prompted a local childcare center to shelter in place for hours. I was at that childcare center just a few days later. Watching the kids run in and out, hugging their friends, I think about the geographic distance of a lot more than it was. When I walked just to the side of the building where the childcare center was and looked across the street, it was closer than the width of this room that morning today. When you go out the back door of the childcare center, it was within feet across a very narrow street from where the shooter was barricaded. In this instance, you have one shooter in a house with a high-powered weapon who is able to hold off a number of law enforcement officials for hours at a time. That is just one example of the power of the weapon.

The issue of gun violence is a uniquely American problem. No country has the problem of gun violence that America has never had a problem like this in its history. It is uniquely American and unique in American history itself.

Some in Congress want to surrender to this problem. The argument is that there is nothing we can do except better enforcement of existing law. I don’t think most Americans believe that—or should they—because there is certainly more we can do. To have a position that I would say is a surrender to this problem today, you have to argue that the most powerful Nation in the history of the world can do absolutely nothing—except maybe tighten up a law by way of enforcement—that we can do absolutely nothing to confront this problem.

No one is arguing that if we passed a background check bill here or an extreme risk protection order bill that somehow the problem would magically begin to decline. No one is arguing that. But there is certainly something we can do right today, and we would hope substantially reduce the likelihood of more mass shootings. If we passed two bills in the Senate that
became law and 25 years from now, one mass shooting was prevented, it would be worth every minute of that effort and every degree of energy expended in furtherance of passing that legislation.

We have been talking about this for a long time just in the recent past. We now have police officers in airports since the House passed H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019.

As I referred to earlier, in the Odessa-Midland shooting, we know that our Nation now needs a national background checks bill in order to make all Americans safer from the horrors of gun violence.

Reports indicate that in 2018 alone, 1.2 million firearm classified ads were posted on armslist.com that did not require a background check before purchase. This is a big loophole that helps feed an illegal underground gun market in cities and communities across our country. If implemented, the universal background checks bill known as H.R. 8 would close this loophole, requiring background checks for all firearm sales between private parties. We also know that since 1994, background checks have prevented 3.5 million gun sales to dangerous criminals and others prohibited from owning a gun.

I have to ask again, are we to surrender to this problem? I don’t think so. I think most Americans don’t want to surrender to it. What they want is for us to take action. They are a little bit tired of just speeches and debate. They may want a little more debate, but they want votes. They want us to be debating and voting several times at least, if not more so.

This is a grave, difficult challenge to confront, but the commitment to confronting it is a mission that I think is worthy of a great country. I ask Majority Leader MC CONNELL to give the Senate the opportunity to debate and vote on the original universal background checks bill, H.R. 8. And I am sure there will be other versions of that in the debate, and that is fine. We should debate all of them and vote on all of them and debate and vote on an extreme risk protection bill.

I would argue we should do more than that. We should have a serious commonsense gun measures to be debated and voted on, even if we are likely to know the outcome, because the American people expect that this uniquely American problem stays the scale of it is worthy of that debate and worthy of those votes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PINGREE). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I also rise to talk about gun violence. I express my appreciation for our Republican colleagues. Those of us on this side of the aisle feel very strongly about this issue. I understand we have gone a little bit more quickly. I feel very strongly about it too.

Let me just talk about two Virginia tragedies, and let me tell the story of a hero whose name we should all know. It has been interesting. I sat on the Senate floor and listened to a number of my colleagues’ speeches. As they talked about gun violence and mass shooting in the United States, very few have mentioned that 12 people were killed in the Virginia Beach mass shooting on May 31. They mentioned Odessa, they mentioned El Paso, and they mentioned Dayton. Why not Virginia Beach? Because there have been so many tragedies since May 31.

The Virginia shooting of 11 governmental employees and a contractor who was just there to get some permits for a building permit he was seeking happened barely 3 months ago, but it has already receded into the memory of virtually anybody outside of Virginia because the gun tragedies since have been the ones that have crowded into our minds.

The fact that that has been allowed to happen—that we are so used to it now in law—is dangerous. When a mass shooting barely 3 months ago escaped people’s memories—tells us we have become used to a situation we should never have been able to tolerate.

In the Virginia Beach shooting, one of the reasons 12 people were killed quickly was the shooter used high-capacity magazines that would contain dozens and dozens of munition, which made the rescue operation conducted by brave first responders extremely difficult.

We say we care about our first responders. When I talk to our first responders, they say: If you care about us, do something to restrict high-capacity magazines. Don’t you want us to be able to stop a shooting in progress? Don’t you want us to stop a murder and keep the homicides and carnage down? It is hard to do it when we are up against somebody with such a mass weapon. If you care, we want to stop it about first responders, if you want us to stop crimes in process, then enable us to put meaningful restrictions on high-capacity magazines.

I think that was a powerful lesson from the Virginia Beach shooting, that had the magazine been smaller, they could have stopped the carnage earlier. There may have been those injured or killed, but it would have been less of a toll.

I want to point this out before moving to the next issue. As a society, we tolerate high-capacity magazines. Many in this Chamber are hunters. Many in this Chamber are familiar with hunting laws. In Virginia, as in most States, there are rules that have been on the books for years. If you hunt a deer in Virginia, we limit the amount of rounds you can have in a rifle or shotgun. We put a limit, and that limit has been accepted for decades. Why do we limit the size of magazines for hunting animals? I think that if we would limit it wouldn’t be fair. It wouldn’t be sportsmanlike. It wouldn’t be humane to allow an animal to be hunted with a magazine of near-unlimited capacity. If it is not humane to hunt an animal with a massive magazine, then why allow near-unlimited magazines to be used to hunt human beings? This is a rule we accept, and we should accept it for weapons designed to hurt humans and not animals.

The second tragedy in Virginia occurred when I was Governor a number of years ago—the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech. I won’t go into it because I will segue when I talk about a hero, but the shooting at Virginia Tech happened because of a weakness in the background check system. The individual, the young man, Seung-Hui Cho, who killed 32 people was prohibited from having a weapon because he had been adjudicated mentally ill and dangerous, but weaknesses in the background checks system enabled him to get a weapon anyway. We learned a powerful and painful lesson that day, which is that if your background check system has holes and gaps, disasters will result.

So I join with my colleagues who say H.R. 8—that has come from the House and is a comprehensive background check system bill that keeps weapons out of the hands of the dangerous, but weaknesses to themselves and others—is something we should absolutely pass.

Last, let me tell the story about an American hero. I have told this story on the floor before but not for a number of years. I want to tell this story because I think everybody should know about this individual’s name. The name of the hero I want to describe is a man named Liviu Librescu.

Liviu Librescu was one of the 32 people who were killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007. Let me tell you about him. He was born in Romania—and he was Jewish—during the Holocaust. When Germany occupied Romania and began to take over the country, Jews were arrested, and Liviu Librescu was then a young child. His family was sent to concentration camps, and many of them perished just because they were Jewish. Liviu, as a young child, was hidden by relatives and friends and miraculously managed to survive the Nazi campaign of anti-Semitism against Jews. Many Jews left Romania because they felt their neighbors and friends didn’t protect them. Liviu Librescu decided to stay. “I am a Romanian and a Jew and I want to stay. I want to make my country a peaceful place where Jews can live in peace with their fellow men and women.”

He ran into a second problem. He went to the university. He was a talented scientist and engineer. But then the Soviet Union moved in and essentially occupied Romania. They punished him because he was Jewish and because he wouldn’t join the Communist Party. He was a world-renowned engineer published in journals here and in Romania. His skills had limited his ability to travel to academic conferences and then prohibited his right to publish. Over the years, the
Soviet-dominated Government of Romania took away virtually every right he had.

He started to try to figure out a way to immigrate to Israel. In the early 1970s, at a time when some Eastern European governments allowed to immigrate to Israel, Liviu Librescu finally escaped Soviet-dominated communism after having survived the Holocaust and moved to Israel. It was his dream.

Liviu Librescu was teaching at the Technion in Israel, one of the premier scientific engineering institutions in the world. He got an offer after a few years to come to Blacksburg, VA, at Virginia Tech for 1 year. He came in 1958. This Romanian Jew, professor at an Israeli technical university, came to Blacksburg, VA, in the mountains of Appalachia, for 1 year, and he fell in love with Blacksburg. He stayed in Blacksburg, at Virginia Tech, for the rest of his career.

On April 16, 2007, Liviu Librescu—now 22 years in Blacksburg—was teaching an engineering class in one of the two buildings that were the subject of the attack by the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho. On the morning of April 16, 2007, he hated to see another tragic event take place in the class. When he heard shooting start in the classroom, he instinctively knew he should protect his students. Liviu Librescu was now over 70 years old, this Holocaust survivor.

He stood in front of the classroom door on the second floor of this building and told the students: You have to jump out the window. I am going to do everything I can to protect your life. Jump out the window.

He stood there in front of the classroom door and absorbed bullet after bullet. Every student of Liviu Librescu’s was able to escape from that building, save one. There was one student who couldn’t get out in time and who was killed. Twenty minutes after Liviu Librescu was killed, and one student in his class was killed, but he saved the lives of all of these other young people.

April 16, 2007, was a very special day in Liviu Librescu’s life. Most in the classroom wouldn’t have known it. That day was Yom HaShoah, which is a day that occurs every year on the Hebrew calendar and is a day that is celebrated and commemorated in Israel. It is a day to commemorate, remember, and never forget the Holocaust. That is what Yom HaShoah was. Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, knew what that day was. He knew what it meant. He made a choice.

The commemoration of the Holocaust is not just about remembering the violent perpetrators and is not just about remembering the victims; it is also about remembering that there wouldn’t have been millions of victims had there not been so many bystanders. This is what Yom HaShoah is about. It is about victims, perpetrators, and also about bystanders in that the Holocaust would never have happened had there not been so many bystanders. What Liviu Librescu decided to do that day was not to be a bystander. As violence was occurring around him, he decided: I will not be a bystander. I will try to take an action to save someone’s life.

Liviu Librescu survived the Holocaust. Think about it. He survived the Soviet takeover of his country. Then he came to this Nation and loved it, but he could not survive the carnage of American gun violence. He did, at one last act. He decided he wouldn’t be a bystander.

That is what we are called to do in the Senate of the United States—not to be bystanders. We do not have to demonstrate the courage of a Liviu Librescu and place our bodies in front of a classroom door and absorb bullet after bullet to save somebody else’s life. I don’t think I would have the courage to do that. I don’t know how many of us would have. We are not talking about millions of that magnitude, but I do think we are called to make some sacrifices, and I do think we are called not to be bystanders. If we are going to be true to that calling, we have to be willing to take up and defend our common sense measures to keep Americans safe from gun violence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise to honor those who lost their lives tragically 18 years ago and to make sure that we never forget what happened then.

I vividly remember that morning. I was in my own office in Jasper, IN. I didn’t have a TV. Somebody there brought it up on the internet. The second plane flew into the building. I will never forget that image because we didn’t know what had happened with the first one. We knew what had happened with the second.

Over the summer break, Senator RICK SCOTT and I took a trip to Israel and saw all of that which goes into its preparedness against the evil that lurks around the world. I saw it again up close, and it always makes me wonder: How can they live like that? How can they be prepared when they know there are always individuals and countries looking for a way to strike—like in 2001? Imagine living in a country in which your entire border is surrounded by a fence or a wall in order to keep people out—where, in the tough places, there is another barrier and where, in the really tough places, there is a dirt berm.

That drove home again how important it is to be prepared and to always be strong when it comes to defending this country and the liberty and freedoms we all enjoy every day. I never thought it could happen in 1941, and I didn’t think it could happen in 2001. It can happen again because that is the world we live in.

When I came here as a U.S. Senator, I always knew the most important thing this body should do was foster the defense and the security of this country. When you see it has slipped so precariously over the last few years—and thank goodness that we have built it back up to a level that makes sense—it is because we always need to be prepared. If we are going to truly honor all of the lives that were lost in 1941 and 2001 and will be inevitably lost down the road, we need to be strong; we need to be prepared to be aware of the fact that we are blessed just as the State of Israel is blessed—despite all of that—with a thriving economy. They live with that danger every day, and they find a way to get through it. Let us never let our guard down or drop our defenses here. Our freedom and our liberty depend upon it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as my friend from Indiana and others have pointed out today, this is a day that Americans remember as a day of unique tragedy. Earlier today, on the Senate floor, we had a moment of si- lence for the 26th anniversary of 9/11. The Senate floor was full of Members who paused to think about what had happened on that day.

I think almost every American alive knows where they were that morning. Just like this morning, it was beautiful and clear. If you were too young to remember where you were that morning—and there is a real likelihood that your parents told you where you were—it was a seminal moment. It changed how we look at so many things in our country. We reflect today where we were and the changes that occurred after that.

I was working on the other side of the building as a Member of the House of Representatives, and I shared with the Capitol Police today my appreciation for what they do every day. On this day every year, I remember being one of the last people to leave this building. The Capitol Police were working hard to get people out as there was a sense that a plane was coming here and was going to either hit the White House or the Capitol. I remember walking out the door—I really was among the last to leave the building that day—and I thought it could happen in 1941 and I didn’t think it could happen in 2001. It can happen again because that is the world we live in.
country and it were to go back to the Taliban. Would it become a haven again? Almost certainly, I think it would.

We really need to think about a number of things. One is that so many people do not protect us all the time. We have thousands of Americans who are in uniform and in the intelligence community who spend their time every day being sure that we are as safe as we can be and that our freedoms are secure. They are deployed overseas fighting terrorist groups like ISIS or the remnants of al-Qaeda. They are working here to spot homegrown terrorists. They are doing what they can to find what somebody may be talking about or what somebody may be bringing across the border that would be of danger.

Senator CAPITO and I were just at the border last week. Some of the things we talked about were not only the drugs coming over the border but the other things coming over the border that are designed to harm us—who we are and how we live.

In St. Louis, MO, and Arnold, MO, we have the second biggest installation of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency constantly looking at the information that is out there. It looks all over the world to see if there is activity in places in which there wouldn't be activity. Yet, if there were activity, it would likely be activity that would be designed or organized by the world. We need to understand that.

We also need to understand that in the society in which we live, there is never perfect security and perfect freedom at the same time. We have worked really hard not to allow ourselves to lose the freedoms we cherish in return for the security we would like to have.

We also need to remember those people who responded. As for the first responders who ran toward the tragedy on 9/11, people were able to run away from the tragedy—passing each other—many of those first responders were numbered among the 3,000 Americans who died on that day.

Just last month, the President signed into law the National Urban Search and Rescue Parity Act, which allows Federal employees to be active participants on urban search and rescue teams whether the disaster is natural or man-made.

The other thing we need to keep in mind is how important it is to honor and care for the victims and heroes among us—those who ran toward the tragedy, those they left behind, and the people who still suffer today because of what happened to them on that day. As likely as not, those people to benefit from the Victim Compensation Fund are the people who stayed behind to help others or who rushed forward to help others.

We do not want to become afraid to be the great, diverse society we have become; we don't want to become a society in which we allow the terrorists to win by taking our freedoms away. Yet this is an important time for us to think of those freedoms, of those who defend those freedoms, of those who rush to the scenes of danger when we have danger, and of those who try to do everything they can to minimize that. We must do all we can, and we resolve today that we will continue to be vigilant against attack and unafraid of defending who we are.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote series begin following the remarks of Senators Daines, Collins, Lankford, and Cotton.

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

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, 18 years ago, on a bright, clear-skied, September morning, without warning, our Nation was attacked. Many of us probably remember where we were on that horrible day.

I had that morning off. I was at home with my nearly 2-year-old daughter. We didn't have the TV on. We had a couple of gentlemen at the house. I was getting the brand new furnace on that day. What would normally be a couple-of-hours-long installation turned into an all-day event as those men would take time off from installing our new furnace to run into the other room so we could see what was going on on the television.

I had two phone calls that morning. The first was early. It was from a neighbor.

She said: Joni, do you have the TV on?

I said: Well, no. Wanda. I don't. What's going on?

She said: Joni, you just need to turn the TV on.

So I turned it on and I saw the horrible events unfolding right in front of us.

The second phone call I got was from my Iowa Army National Guard unit: Captain ERNST, we are doing a 100-percent accountability check. We need you to stay by the phone all day so we know how we can get ahold of you—100 percent accountability.

It was an experience many of us had never felt before—the terrifying shock of knowing that the country we love and our fellow Americans were under attack.

Our adversaries sought to tear us apart by their cowardly acts, but, instead, they brought us together as Americans, for in those terrible moments, we also saw the very, very best of our country—the firefighters, the police officers, the first responders, and the ordinary citizens who courageously put their lives on the line to save countless others.

On that day, as individuals and as a Nation, we came together in a unique way, and we also made a pledge to never forget—to never forget the nearly 3,000 victims and the families they left behind, to never forget the heroism of both our first responders and those everyday men and women who selflessly acted to save lives, and to never forget the importance of defending our homeland and the great democratic principles that we stand for.

It is a pledge I personally take very seriously, and it is why I have organized this event for my colleagues to come to the floor today and to share their memories and thoughts on today, this eighteenth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

It is why I work so hard to make sure our Armed Forces have the technology, support, and resources they need to defend our Nation from threats both here at home and abroad.

It is why I cosponsored and helped to finally get signed into law a permanent reauthorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, keeping our Nation’s promise to support the first responders who continue to sacrifice their health and lives from their work in the post-9/11 recovery efforts.

And it is why we should never ever take our Nation and our freedoms for granted.

I use today’s anniversary as a day of service, performing acts of kindness throughout Iowa. Others come together with their communities to honor and remember those who were lost.

It is really wonderful to see all of the ways that folks are doing that, from walking in the 9/11 March to the Capitol in Des Moines to visiting the 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit, currently at the Clay County Fair, to participating in the annual 9/11 Moment of Silence Motorcycle Ride in Mason City.

For some of our fellow Iowans, today will be spent remembering loved ones lost in the attack—folks like Newton’s Jean Cleere’s husband, Jim, a loving, good-natured, good-humored, and God-fearing giant of a man, who never came home from a fateful business trip to the World Trade Center 18 years ago.

For nearly two decades now, Jean has been on a crusade to keep Jim’s memory alive and well. Jean has raised funds for Newton’s very own 9/11 memorial. She speaks to local students, educating them about the events of that day 18 years ago, and she has given her testimony all over Iowa. For folks in Iowa, they have probably seen her driving across the State. She has a pretty special license plate, which reads “NVR4GT”—never forget.

Today and every day, Iowans are keeping that sacred promise. We will always remember Jim Cleere and the nearly 3,000 others who lost their lives that tragic day. We will always honor the heroes who selflessly sacrificed and saved countless lives. We will always
rise up to defend our Nation and its citizens. We will never forget. That is our sacred promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, Americans witnessed what evil looks like. Eighteen years ago today, Americans witnessed the loss of innocent life. Eighteen years ago today, Americans witnessed acts of cowardice.

Today, Montanans and Americans across our country are taking time to reflect upon the horrific acts of 9/11. Today, we take time to remember the thousands of lives lost on that horrible day. We remember the daughters and sons of Montana and the families and friends of those we lost. While we take the time to remember today, we also reflect on those who are still here today.

As Americans, we are strong and resilient. After the 9/11 attacks, we responded with strength and we strengthened the homeland.

We are most grateful to those who served and to those who are serving today in our Armed Forces. Just recently, last December, I flew to Afghanistan. In fact, we carried 50 pounds of Montana beef jerky to deliver to the 496th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of the Montana National Guard, who are deployed over in Afghanistan protecting us. As I received the briefs that day, I was reminded yet again that this war that we have against terrorism exists this very moment, and I can tell you this because of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, in intelligence, and in law enforcement across our Nation. It is because of them that we are able to stand here today without another terrorist attack like we saw on 9/11. When I received the brief in Afghanistan in December, I was reminded again of the porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan and that there are plots being created and attempts to hit the homeland again. There are many brave men and women there, many Secret Service.

I spent time with the four-star there, Scott Miller, who has had a career in Special Forces. He is overseeing the operations there. I am grateful that they continue to remain vigilant in this fight against global terrorism.

America’s enemies want us to be afraid, but the thing is, here in America, we don’t give up. When America is strong, so are our allies and so is the free world. We must remain vigilant to not allow them to do as they wish. We must remain strong as the Reagan doctrine of peace through strength.

The world will never forget what happened on this day 18 years ago, and despite the political differences and divisions that we have across our country and this city, we must always remember that we are all in this together, and Americans are strong when we are united.

There is no force of evil or terror that will ever overcome the will and the determination of a free and united people.

We ask that God continue to bless our fighting men and women, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, September 11 is a solemn anniversary. Eighteen years later, we still remember that terrible day.

Nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives in the attacks on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93, but every American experienced the pain of loss that day.

Just as we mourn the innocent lives lost, we also remember the heroism of our first responders who ran toward danger and death to help their fellow Americans.

Out of the ashes of that terrible tragedy arose a strength and unity that the whole world came to admire. September 11 altered the course of our Nation’s history in a blaze of fire and smoke, and for so many Americans, it altered the course of our lives.

Our fighting men and women deployed overseas just weeks later and remain in the fight today. So many Americans joined them, enlisting to defend our Nation. Young kids who witnessed firefighters rushing into the burning towers grew up and themselves joined units with old-fashioned names like “engine” and “ladder.” A generation of intelligence officers dedicated themselves to preventing another 9/11, and they have and still do.

Our lives continue to be altered because the consequences of September 11 are still with us. The attacks of 18 years ago continue to claim new victims, as first responders and others suffer injuries and illnesses that trace back to that morning.

The al-Qaida terrorists who attacked us are bloodied, yet undefeated, while the Taliban terrorists who gave safe haven threaten to regain control in Afghanistan.

Most tragic of all, our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines continue to fall in the line of duty and defense of our country.

Just last week, Army SFC Ellis A. Barreto Ortiz was killed on the battlefield in Afghanistan. September 11 is his story, too—the story of valor and sacrifice.

So the story of September 11 continues to unfold many years after the fact. As we mark its memory and reaffirm our resolve to continue fighting the enemies of freedom, and may we never ever forget.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, in my office in Oklahoma City, a fellow staff member poked her head into the office and said to me: There is a freak accident that happened in Oklahoma. A plane flew into the World Trade Center.

She went down the hallway and pulled in a rolling cart—the younger generation will have no idea what that is—but a rolling cart with a TV on top of it, and we plugged it in and watched it. As the second plane flew in, both of us stood there silently, thinking: That is no accident. That is murder on a massive scale and terror like I have never witnessed with my own eyes.

What I didn’t know at that moment is how many thousands of lives would be affected and how much our Nation would be changed. That morning, 18 years ago, seven Oklahomans died, but...
our Nation was forever changed. Common terms we think about today like “TSA,” or “terror watch list,” or “Department of Homeland Security,” or “Global Entry,” or “body scanners,” or “Patriot Act”—those didn’t exist on September 10, 2001. They have all come since then like Nation learns how to do more security, learns how to engage, and has learned a painful lesson that what people think in an isolated village in a remote country—what they think matters to us because what they may carry out in our country...I yield back.

The Presiding Officer. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. Durbin. Mr. President, let me say at the outset, I join with the Senator from Oklahoma and our colleagues on the floor, starting with a moment of silence until this last speech, in remembering the historic American significance of September 11.

The fact that both political parties came together shows there is hope that when it comes to this Nation and its values, what brings us together is a powerful force. Today it is the force of memory, the force of promise, and the cent of 7.5 percent. In the previous year, it had gone up by 80 percent, and it is continuing to skyrocket because it is an addiction which is so popular with children.

Our kids don’t know any better. They are being told by Juul and other companies that somehow this vaping is really a healthy alternative to tobacco cigarettes. That has yet to be proven, and the Food and Drug Administration challenged Juul and the other companies to come up with clinical proof of that statement before they repeat it again and again.

In the course of the last several years, the sale of these e-cigarettes and vaping products shrunk dramatically in the United States. Just ask any school principal, teacher, and many parents, and they will tell you what is happening. Kids don’t understand that these flavors they are buying—Pink Milk, Blue Raspberry Gummy Bears, Bubble Gum—sound like some sweet candy treat, but when you inhale it into your lungs, you run the risk of real damage.

So far, over 450 American kids have been admitted to hospitals because of lung problems from vaping. Six have died. These young people do not understand how risky this is.

Have you walked down the street and seen somebody with a big cloud of white smoke over their head as they exhale from one of these vaping devices? They don’t realize that what they are ingesting in their lungs could be deadly.

Today, though, we are just a nation remembering and praying for that time of peace that will come, and we are telling Gold Star families and families who have sent their loved ones around the world to places they had never seen before: We have not forgotten, and we are grateful that we serve together as a nation.

Today, I pulled out of my closet a specific tie that I rarely wear. It was a tie given to me by a Gold Star Wife who never ever wanted to be a Gold Star Wife. She just wanted to be the Star Wife. She just wanted to be the Gold Star family. She just wanted to be the Gold Star mother, or Gold Star sister. Today, I pulled out of my closet a specific tie that I rarely wear. It was a tie given to me by a Gold Star Wife who never ever wanted to be a Gold Star Wife. She just wanted to be the Star Wife. She just wanted to be the Gold Star family. She just wanted to be the Gold Star mother, or Gold Star sister.
originally reported as a small plane—had struck one of the Twin Towers. I then shortly thereafter saw the second aircraft strike the World Trade Center. It was then that I knew our country was under attack. I told my staff to stay and help the Capitol Building because I feared it, too, could be a target.

Today, we all still share the powerful emotions of shock, anger, and grief. I was worried about not only my staff, those members, but also staff members who were on their way back from Portland, ME, which turns out to be where some of the terrorists began their journey of death and destruction that day.

On that evening of that terrible day, Members of Congress gathered together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. With tears in our eyes and sorrow in our hearts, together we sang “God Bless America.” The emotions of shock, anger, and grief were joined by unity, resolve, and patriotism. That sense that swept over us as we sang was a source of strength in the challenges that we faced in the fight against terrorism.

So many were killed that horrific day. In my State of Maine, we remember Robert and Jackie Norton of Lubeck, a devoted retired couple who boarded Flight 11 to celebrate a son’s wedding on that day. We remember James Roux of Portland, an Army veteran and a devoted father, who was on his way to a business meeting in California. We remember Robert Schlegel of Gray, who was celebrating his recent promotion to the rank of commander in the U.S. Navy and was still settling into his new office at the Pentagon when the plane struck. We remember Stephen Ward of Gorham, who was working on the 101st floor of the North Tower an hour before it went down.

On this solemn anniversary, we join all Americans in remembering the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives that day—lives of accomplishment, compromise, sacrifice. Each loss leaves a wound in the hearts of families and friends that can never be fully healed.

We honor the heroes of that day. We are still moved by the selfless courage of the men and women on Flight 93 who wrestled that plane to the ground in Pennsylvania, sacrificing their lives so that others might live. We are inspired by the firefighters, EMS personnel, and police officers at the World Trade Center who climbed upward and rescued those who were in peril even as the Twin Towers were tumbling down. The New York City Fire Department alone lost 343 firefighters who responded to the attacks.

We pay tribute today and every day to the first responders, the military who responded to the attacks. We pay tribute to the first responders who risked their lives to save their fellow Americans who will always be supported and their illnesses treated.

September 11 was a day of personal tragedy for so many families. It was also an attack on the United States of America and on civilization. We must never forget what was lost and what remains at stake. We must continue our pledge—the pledge we made that horrific day—to do all we can to prevent future attacks.

The fundamental obligation of government is to protect its people. Since September 11, 2001, we have done much to meet that obligation, but more work remains. In the aftermath of those attacks, former Senator from Connecticut Joe Lieberman and I, as the leaders of the Select Intelligence and Homeland Security Committee, worked in a bipartisan way with the leaders of the 9/11 Commission and the families of those who were lost to terrorist attacks on that day to pass the most sweeping reforms of our intelligence community since World War II. It is significant that the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 2 and that, of the hundreds of amendments that were considered, not a single one was decided by a party-line vote.

In what seemed like a moment, September 11, 2001, was transformed from a day like any other into one that forever will stand alone. The loss we re- live reminds us of the value of all that we must protect. The heroism reminds us of the un-conquerable spirit of the American people. Our accomplishments remind us that we can meet any challenge. As long as we keep this day of remembrance in our hearts, we shall meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020 (Reappointment).


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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. S ANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—and yeas 62, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Alexander
Barrasso
Barrasso
Bill Cassidy
Burr
Capito
Capito
Carper
Collins
Coons
Cotton
Cramer
Crus
Daines
Ernst
Fischer
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Inhofe
Johnson
Jones
Kaine
Kenny
Lankford
Lee
McCracken
McConnell
McSally
Moran
Murkowski
PERDUE
Peter
Portman
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sanse
Scott (FL)
Scott (RI)
Shaheen
Shelby
Sina
Sullivan
Tester
Tester
Toomey
Warner
Wicker
Young

NAYS—31

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Casey
Cochran
Cochran
Duckworth
Duckworth
Feinstein
Fusil
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
Hern
Hirono
King
Leahy
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Paul
Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Smith
Stabenow
Udall
Van Hollen
Whitehouse
Wyden
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 62, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 0. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Haines nomination?

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The following Senators are necessary absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. BOOKER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yes 94, nays 0, as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security (New Position). Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Tom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security (New Position), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. S ANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yes 92, nays 1, as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years. Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Thune.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years, shall be brought to a close?

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yes 94, nays 0, as follows:
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote? The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 276 Ex.]

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The nomination was confirmed.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The clerk will report the next nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk reads the nomination of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown nomination? Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The clerk will call the roll.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senate from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote? The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 13, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

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<td>Harris</td>
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The nomination was confirmed.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The clerk will report the next nomination. The legislative clerk reads the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Seeger nomination? Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll. Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote? The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 1, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 278 Ex.]

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The nomination was confirmed.
Judge Stephanie Gallagher brings tremendous experience to the courtroom as a sitting U.S. magistrate judge in Baltimore, as well as being a former prosecutor, private law firm attorney, and judicial law clerk. Her strong roots in the Maryland legal community, tremendous understanding and respect for the rule of law, and willingness to volunteer her time in service outside the courtroom make her an exceptional nominee. I was pleased to recommend Judge Gallagher’s nomination to President Trump, along with Senator Van Hollen.

I must note for my colleagues that I originally recommended Judge Gallagher’s nomination to President Obama along with Senator Mikulski, back in 2015, given the impending retirement of Judge William Quarles in 2016. Judge Gallagher’s nomination has actually been favorably recommended by the Judiciary Committee on three separate occasions, in 2016, 2018, and most recently, on June 20, 2019. Most recently, on June 20, 2019, the Judiciary Committee favorably recommended Judge Gallagher to the full Senate for confirmation by a vote of 21-1. I want to thank Senator Van Hollen for working with me to ensure we seek out the best attorneys in our State for Federal judicial vacancies, which are lifetime appointments and one of the most important obligations we have as U.S. Senators. We have recommended judicial nominations to the President that have made Marylanders proud of our Federal courts.

Stephanie Gallagher, of Baltimore, MD, has been a U.S. magistrate judge in Baltimore since 2011. As a magistrate judge, Judge Gallagher works closely on a daily basis with district court judges, the very position she has been nominated for today. In her current position as a magistrate judge, Judge Gallagher convenes settlement conferences, resolves discovery disputes, and prepares reports and recommendations on dispositive motions. With the consent of the parties, Judge Gallagher can take jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters, she becomes the presiding judge, making all rulings in the case and overseeing the trial. In this capacity, she has presided over civil bench and jury trials. She has served as the criminal duty judge on a rotating basis with her colleagues, where she presides over preliminary proceedings in felony cases and handles misdemeanor cases, including those occurring at Federal military installations in Maryland.

Preceding Judge Gallagher was a partner and cofounder at Levin & Gallagher LLC, now Levin & Curlett, for 3 years, served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Baltimore for 6 years, and was a litigation associate at Akin Gump in Washington, DC, for 2 years. She practiced in a wide variety of legal issues, including complex civil litigation, employment disputes, constitutional issues, criminal defense, and criminal prosecution.

Judge Gallagher began her legal career as a law clerk for then-Chief Judge J. Frederick Motz of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland from 1997 to 1999. She received her J.D. in 1997 from Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude, and received her B.S. in government from Georgetown University in 1994, graduating magna cum laude. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has declared this Maryland seat for 9/11 first responders. We recently
made the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent. This ensures that all those who responded to the terror attacks and their families have peace of mind and first-rate healthcare.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, I want to turn to the topic of the overall healthcare debate that we are having in this country. For the past several weeks, I have been home in Wyoming, as you have been home in North Dakota, and I listened to the people I am so privileged to represent. I have been privileged to treat as their doctor. Of course we discussed their healthcare. As a doctor, I want to make care better and more affordable.

Folks in Wyoming actually know me first as a doctor, so many of them call me Dr. BARRASSO or JOHN as opposed to first as a doctor, so many of them call and more affordable.

We are having in this country. For present, many of whom I have been priv-

ileged to treat as their doctor. Of mind and first-rate healthcare.

The cost of their proposal is $32 trillion—that is “trillion” with a “t.” It is

an astronomical amount of money. Of course, they have to pay for that, as Senator SANDERS has said, by raising taxes on the middle class.

These Democrats clearly aren’t fo-

cused on helping to lower the costs of care. They apparently have plans, in my opinion, with plans to destroy health insurance, to destroy union workers’ hard-fought insurance benefits, to destroy the current Medicare Program for 60 million seniors, and to destroy the health coverage that people used to get when they worked. For what? It is all so that government can have complete control over America’s healthcare system. We can’t af-

ford for that to happen. The Democrats have admitted that their ObamaCare healthcare law has failed. The polling shows that the majority of Americans do not want a one-size-fits-all healthcare plan for them.

Now, remember, when it came to the vote on ObamaCare, congressional Democrats in the House and the Senate promised that the ObamaCare healthcare law would control costs. They actually named it—I think completely mis-

named it—the Affordable Care Act. It was the Unaffordable Care Act. What we have seen is that out-of-pocket insurance pre-

miums soared all after the Obama healthcare law was signed. For many Americans, health insurance premiums have doubled since the signing of the Obama healthcare law. Monthly pre-

miums are now to mortgage payments. This can’t stand. This simply can’t continue. We cannot trust the Democrats to roll the dice again with the healthcare of the American people.

The Republicans are focused on real reforms—reforms that actually lower costs and reforms that protect patients with preexisting conditions. In July, the Senate’s Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions ap-

proved a measure to end surprise medical billing. That is why we ended the unfair Obamacare tax penalty. We ended that. We recently banned the costly drug price gag clauses so people could know what things actually cost and what the best deal was for them.

Now we are focused on ending some-

thing called surprise medical billing. It happens. You get huge medical bills that you don’t expect and you can’t easily pay. We are also moving forward to lower drug prices that people actually have to pay.

Here is the problem: Democrats are re-

jecting all of our efforts. They are proposing costly healthcare—to me, schemes. The Washington Post reports that five of the seven Democratic Sen-

ators who are Members of this body and who are running for President have backed a one-size-fits-all approach. It is a government-run plan they call Medicare for All. The Washington Post reports the Democrats also back it. They have actually cosponsored it. They want it to become the law.

The Democrats’ proposal would take away on-the-job health insurance from 180 million working Americans. Let me repeat that. What the Democrats are proposing with their so-called Medicare for All—a one-size-fits-all proposal for healthcare in this country—would take away the healthcare that people get on the job that they earned on the job. These people have earned their insurance that way in America. The cost of their proposal is $32 trillion—that is “trillion” with a “t.” It is

and follow the House Democrats who are pushing for a one-size-fits-all, government-run healthcare for America with the loss of choice and the loss of control—all of the concerns that come with a one-size-fits-all, government ap-

proach.

It doesn’t seem like they are for lowering costs. It seems they are for rais-

ing your taxes and taking away your control and your choice. They are not for improving care. They are for increasing and growing the role of govern-

ment. Remember, the Democrats want to take away health insurance from 180 million Americans—working Americans—who go to work every day and have earned their health insurance at work.

At the same time, the Democrats who are running for President are promising free healthcare. I was aston-

ished when I heard this from the Demo-

crats. They are promising free healthcare for illegal immigrants. Democrats who are running for President want to take insurance away from hard-working Americans and give insurance—free—to illegal immigrants.

What kind of proposal is that? Who is being represented with this proposal by these Democratic Senators and other Democrats who are running for President? Who do you think is going to pay for all of this? Why should we pay more to wait longer for worse care?

It is not something Americans want or will tolerate. Instead, let’s give pa-

tients the care they need from the doctors they choose and at lower costs. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-

ator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I start my remarks tonight by thanking my colleague from Wyoming for his re-

marks concerning the anniversary of the horror that was September 11, 2001. I join him and all of my colleagues here in recognizing the magnitude of that horror, the American people came together, and we demonstrated the strength, kindness, bravery, and resil-

ience that we have throughout our his-

try. I, too, remember the victims, their loved ones, as well as all of the brave first responders. I thank all of the men and women of our military who con-

inue to fight against terrorism and who keep us safe, and I remember the lives lost on the battlefields.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, I also want to take a minute tonight to talk about the im-

portance of there being the continued funding to address our Nation’s opioid crisis. As the Senate Appropriations Committee prepared its markup of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies’ fiscal year 2020 budget, I rise to discuss the urgent need for additional funding to combat the fentanyl, heroin, and opioid crisis.

The substance misuse crisis con-

tinues to ravage communities in my home State of New Hampshire and all
across our country. People in New Hampshire are doing vital work to address this crisis and get those who are struggling the support they need to get and stay healthy.

Just last month, I visited Moms in Recovery in Lebanon, N.H., which is an addiction services program through Dartmouth-Hitchcock that is providing comprehensive care to get pregnant and parenting women the services they need to address substance misuse. In Lebanon, N.H., Moms in Recovery offers everything from medication-assisted treatment to group therapy, counseling, outpatient therapy, parenting classes, and more. Providers said that what started as a program for 5 women is now serving 60. It has transformed from a program that just served pregnant women to one that is now serving women after they give birth. It works to help them stabilize their lives and to reengage in our workforce and in our communities.

People across my State are implementing innovative approaches to help their friends and neighbors, and Congress needs to give them the support they need to help save lives.

I have been proud to work with Senator Shaffer and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strengthen support for treatment, recovery, prevention, and law enforcement efforts. This includes having worked to secure more than $6 billion in the 2018 budget agreement for government wide efforts to combat this crisis and to ensure that as the appropriations process progressed, hardest hit States, including the Granite State, were prioritized.

Last year, we also passed the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which the President signed into law. It included, among many critical priorities, the following: establishing comprehensive opioid recovery centers, expanding access to medication-assisted treatment and supporting law enforcement in its efforts to curb the shipment of fentanyl through the Postal Service.

Yet nobody in this body should think that our work is anywhere near complete. As the Appropriations Committee considers funding bills for the next fiscal year, I urge my colleagues on the committee to ensure that State opioid response grants, which have been a vital tool in increasing access to treatment, prevention, and recovery efforts are fully funded. While these grants should be increased, they must, at the very least, be fully funded at the fiscal year 2019 levels.

It is also imperative to continue prioritizing hardest hit States and to give communities additional flexibility to use this funding to address other substances that are being used in conjunction with or instead of opioids. While the vast majority of overdose deaths in New Hampshire still involve opioids, specifically fentanyl, we are seeing substances like crystal meth-amphetamine emerge as a growing issue. Additional flexibility in funding can help communities respond to this challenge in realtime.

This crisis didn’t begin overnight, and it will not be solved overnight. What we need at the Federal level is a long-term solution and additional certainty. We know they will have stable and consistent Federal funding as they implement strategies and treatment programs that will help save lives.

One important next step would be to pass Senator SHAHEEN’s Turn the Tide Act, which is legislation I have cosponsored that would invest $63 billion in flexible funding over 10 years, support treatment and prevention efforts, and address workforce challenges in the treatment field. This is the kind of long-term, comprehensive approach we should be taking, and I will continue to join with Senator SHAHEEN to push for this bill.

The fentanyl, heroin, and opioid crisis remains the most pressing public health and public safety challenge facing New Hampshire and many other communities across our country, and the biggest mistake anyone could make is in thinking our efforts to address this crisis are close to being done. I urge my colleagues to ensure that those on the frontlines of this crisis have the support they need. I urge my colleagues to join me so we can make our families, communities, and country healthier and safer so we can help this generation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

MRS. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I so enjoy listening to my colleagues as they talk about the issues that are important to them and to the States they represent. It is, indeed, one of those privileges that we in this body enjoy, and many times we take it for granted. Yet today is a day of recognition. It is a day that we look back and say we ought not take it for granted because there are many in this world who would threaten our freedoms and our liberties.

Earlier this week, I was talking with some of the members of our team, and we were trading stories about where we were on the morning of September 11 and how it affected the way we viewed their place in the world, and their memories of that fateful day. Those of us who vividly remember that day still recall an unsettling cascade of emotions. There was shock, confusion, and, finally, dread as we realized we were not, as initially thought, seeing a senseless accident, but that, indeed, we were under attack. As the morning wore on, dread really gave way to fear and panic and, finally, to absolute terror that our loved ones who were in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania and who were in the Towers and the Pentagon, among those who were experiencing firsthand what was happening. It was the perfect storm of conflicting media reports and jammed cell service that made it almost impossible to reach out to people and to ask that question, “Are you OK?” and to hear their voices.

Through the smoke and the blood came a moment of awful clarity, Life was never the same because we would never again experience life without feeling as if we were a target. The events of September 11 introduced a new generation of Americans to the reality that our country is not and will never be immune to the threat of terrorism.

Those who were teetering on the edge of adulthood may not have immediately made the connection between global politics and the disaster that was playing out on TV in real time. Yet, by the time terrorists struck that second tower, I think a lot of people really had begun to understand what was happening. Later, they learned that a half a world away, a group of men who referred to themselves as al-Qaida had made it their mission to murder Americans. They were doing it to prove a point. Yes, it did leave a mark on this Nation and on our citizens. Younger Americans’ memories of that day really are fuzzier, but almost every single staff member who remembers what they now describe as a sense of national unity rising up in the days following the attacks.

They remember that every house on the street flew an American flag and that every adult they knew stood in a line to give fireblood. They saw small town first responders load up those firetrucks and emergency vehicles and head to New York.

At the time, they really didn’t understand geopolitics, but they did understand fear and suffering because they saw that fear in the eyes of their teachers and in the eyes of the adults who surrounded them; but they also saw the shift that the attacks and the aftermath caused in our country. For a time, partisanship and bitterness was washed away. What you saw was unity, and waving flags.

Now, almost 20 years later, memories are growing fuzzy. Sometimes they are nonexistent. Calls for unity have been replaced by heated debate. Too often, the loudest voices look back at 9/11 as an event in the collective memory, and they don’t look at it as an occurrence that changed lives and lifestyles forever. They consider in passing the remnants of the attacks in debates over foreign policy and defense spending, but ignore why we remain so focused on national security. This is why every year, without exception, we remind ourselves that the kind of hatred it takes to bring an entire country to its knees gives no quarter.

They consider in passing the remnants of the attacks in debates over foreign policy and defense spending, but ignore why we remain so focused on national security. This is why every year, without exception, we remind ourselves that the kind of hatred it takes to bring an entire country to its knees gives no quarter.

We acknowledge the actions of 19 terrorists whose twisted beliefs led to the violent murder of nearly 3,000 innocent people, because even though the panic of that awful morning has faded, our enemies’ desire to make an example of us has not. But America, with all her
imperfections, still thrives in utter defiance of hatred, divisiveness, and destruction.

Today, we remember those who died, and we keep their memory as a beacon against the void that allowed violence and terror.

We remember the heroes who defined fear and reason and ran toward the flames, putting love of country and countrymen above all else.

And we remember and remind ourselves that by simply standing back up, America often rises to its best example of what it looks like when love, hope, and valor triumph over the forces of darkness.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action for the nominations confirmed during today's session of the Senate.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, the Senate vote on the Bowman and Nordquist nominations and that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that following disposition of the Nordquist nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Feddo nomination; communications equipment; spares and repair parts; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documents; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is $6.5 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of the new NATO ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key allies in the region with modern systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

This proposed sale of F-35s will provide Poland with a credible defense capability to deter aggression in the region and ensure interoperability with U.S. forces. The proposed sale will augment Poland's operational aircraft inventory and enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground self-defense capability. The Polish Air Force's legacy MiG–29 and Su–22 fleet will be replaced. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this aircraft, systems, and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas; and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines in East Hartford, Connecticut. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. However, the purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips to Poland involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews/support, program management and training over the life of the program. U.S. contractor representatives will be required in Poland to conduct Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS) and Autonomic Logistics and Global Support (ALGS) for after aircraft delivery.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the communications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-49 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer(s) of Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost $8.5 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREG M. KAUSNER, (For Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTED NO. 19-49
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.
(ii) Total Estimated Value: $8.5 billion.
(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Proposed Sale:

Major Defense Equipment


Thirty-three (33) Pratt & Whitney F-135 Engines (32 installed, 1 spare).

Non-MDE: Also included are Electronic Warfare Systems; Command, Control, Communications, Computer, and Intelligence/Communications, Navigational, and Identification (C4I/CNI); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); Autonomic Logistics Global Support System (ALGS); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); Full Mission Trainer; Weapon System Information System (ALIS); Full Mission Trainer; Weapon System Information System (ALIS).


(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 10, 2019.

As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland–F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Poland has requested to buy thirty-two (32) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft and thirty-three (33) Pratt & Whitney F-135 Engines. Also included are Electronic Warfare Systems; Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence/Communications, Navigational, and Identification (C4I/CNI); Autonomic Logistics Global Support System (ALGS); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); Full Mission Trainer; Weapon System Information System (ALIS); Autonomic Logistics Global Support System (ALGS); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS).

The proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of the new NATO ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key allies in the region with modern systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

This proposed sale of F-35s will provide Poland with a credible defense capability to deter aggression in the region and ensure interoperability with U.S. forces. The proposed sale will augment Poland's operational aircraft inventory and enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground self-defense capability. The Polish Air Force's legacy MiG–29 and Su–22 fleet will be replaced. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this aircraft, systems, and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas; and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines in East Hartford, Connecticut. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. However, the purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips to Poland involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews/support, program management and training over the life of the program. U.S. contractor representatives will be required in Poland to conduct Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS) and Autonomic Logistics and Global Support (ALGS) for after aircraft delivery.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of
Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the
Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. The F–35 Command, Control, Take-Off and Landing (CTOL) Block 4 aircraft is classified SECRET, except as noted below. It contains current technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. The radar functions are classified SECRET. The Electro Optical Targeting System (EOTS) subsystem contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through electronic countermeasures and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter IR and RF threats. The radar subsystem supports integrated sensor fusion by supplying data from heterogeneous sources sensor fusion by supplying data from heterogeneous sources to meet aerodynamic and stealth requirements.

The Electronic Warfare (EW) system contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through electronic countermeasures and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter IR and RF threats. The radar and EW systems are under development, many of which use unclassified current technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET.

The National Security Agency (NSA) is developing and testing the F–35 command, control, communications computer and intelligence systems and software. This system uses low signature-emitting sensors and features. The reprogrammable, integrated systems provide radar warning and electronic support measures (ESM) along with a fully integrated countermeasures (CM) system. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through electronic countermeasures and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter IR and RF threats. The radar and EW systems are under development, many of which use unclassified current technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET.

2. The Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) functionality provides operational modes to identify ground station and to provide navigation, bearing-to-station, slant range to- ground station, bearing-to-airborne station and slant range to airborne station. The TACAN system is furnished only to the F–35 aircraft and it is classified SECRET. This system uses low signature-emitting sensors and features. The reprogrammable, integrated systems provide radar warning and electronic support measures (ESM) along with a fully integrated countermeasures (CM) system. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through electronic countermeasures and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter IR and RF threats. The radar and EW systems are under development, many of which use unclassified current technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET.

3. The Identification Friend or Foe Interrogator and Transponder Identification functionality consists of Integrated Mark XII Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder capability to provide identification of other friendly forces. The IFF system also provides radar functions for the following major subsystems:

a. The Propulsion system is classified SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. The single 40,000-lb thrust class engine is designed for low observability and has been integrated into the aircraft system. Pratt & Whitney, with the F–135, is developing and producing engine turbo machinery compatible with the F–35 and assures highly reliable, affordable performance. The engine is designed to be utilized in all F–35 variants, providing unmatched commonality and supportability throughout the worldwide base of F–35 users. The CTOL propulsion configuration consists of a main engine, diverterless supersonic inlet, and a Low Observable Axisymmetric Nozzle (LOAN).

b. The AN/APO–81 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) provides mission system information to notify the downlink of air vehicle status and maintenance information. This system contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

c. The Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS) contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. The EOTS subsystem to the sensor suite provides long-range detection and tracking, Infrared Search and Track (IRST) capability, sensor- looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor for precision tracking, and Bomb Damage Indication (BDI) capability. EOTS replaces multiple systems of similar capability, typically found on legacy aircraft. The functionality of the EOTS employs the following modes: Targeting FLIR; Laser Range-Finding suite; Sensor Identification; E–DAS and EOTS Performance.

d. The Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (EDAS) is a subsystem to the sensor suite that provides all spherical coverage for air-to-air and air-to-ground detection and Navigation Forward Looking Infra-

red (NFLIR) imaging. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. The NFLIR capability provides infrared (IR) imaging and stare and serially distributed sensor fusion.  IR process images from ground sites, and intercommunication voice and tone alerts to provide communications between the avionics and UHF/VHF downlink of air vehicle status and maintenance information is provided to notify the ground crews of the amounts and types of stores, fuel, and other supplies or equipment needed to quickly turn the aircraft for the next mission. The system contains both SE-
CRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

The Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) functionality provides operational modes to identify ground station and to provide navigation, bearing-to-station, slant range to- ground station, bearing-to-airborne station and slant range to airborne station. The TACAN system is furnished only to the F–35 aircraft and it is classified SECRET. This system uses low signature-emitting sensors and features. The reprogrammable, integrated systems provide radar warning and electronic support measures (ESM) along with a fully integrated countermeasures (CM) system. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through electronic countermeasures and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter IR and RF threats. The radar and EW systems are under development, many of which use unclassified current technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET.
9. The Tactical Data Link is a secure broadcast Tactical Digital Information Link (TADIL) used for real-time voice/data exchange for command and control, relative navigation, and Position Location Identification (PPLI), providing Link-16 type capabilities. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Central Computer is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: mission planning, mission briefing, maintenance/intelligence/tactical debriefing, sensor/algorithm planning, EW system reprogramming, data debrief, etc.

10. The Integrated Core Processor (ICP) Central Computer is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: the Radar Cross Section and its corresponding plots, construction materials and fabrication.

11. The Low Observable Air Frame is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. Sensitive elements include: information related to the payload system, engine performance, and dedicated system/graphics processing.

12. The Integrated Core Processor utilizing Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Hardware and Module Design to maximize growth and allow for efficient management of RMS and Technology Insertion. In addition, processing is needed, a second ICP will be installed in the space reserved for that purpose, more than doubling the current throughput and memory capacity.

13. The F-35 Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS) is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: mission planning, mission briefing, maintenance/intelligence/tactical debriefing, sensor/algorithm planning, EW system reprogramming, data debrief, etc.

14. The JSF Reprogramming Center is classified SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. This hardware/software facility is located in the United States and provides F-35 customers a means to upgrade JSF capabilities. Sensitive elements include: EW software databases and tools to modify these databases.

15. A determination has been made that Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology containing the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

16. All defense articles and services listed in this transmital are authorized for release and export to the Government of Poland.
and scenic rivers are managed to “protect and enhance the values.” 16 USC 1281(a), for which the wild and scenic river was established.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act generally defines “outstandingly remarkable values” as “scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.” The Federal land management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, which is administering most of the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers in the Oregon Wildlands Act, has defined “other” values as, but not limited to, “ecological, biological or botanical, paleontological, hydrological, traditional cultural uses, water quality, and scientific values.” Some of the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers in Oregon Wildlands Act were never evaluated by the agency. Therefore, as part of the fact-gathering by my staff based on State and Federal agency data and research and public input during the development of the legislation, ORVs were determined for the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers. The table I am including with my statement lists both the general and specific ORVs identified during consideration of the legislation. It is to protect and enhance these values for which I, as the chief sponsor of the Oregon Wilderness Act, included the various wild and scenic rivers in the legislation that has ultimately included in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This table includes both the outstandingly remarkable values that BLM found for the stream segments, as well as additional values.

The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act reflects the Nation’s commitment to protect America’s rivers, streams, and scenic values. I am pleased the legislation permanently protects from damming, diversion, and mining over 255 miles of Oregon’s pristine rivers and streams as part of the nation’s Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

I ask unanimous consent that the table be printed in the RECORD.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wild &amp; Scenic River</th>
<th>General Outstandingly Remarkable Value</th>
<th>Specific Outstandingly Remarkable Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elk River Additions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Creek ........................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Impact mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelet; habitat for Southern Oregon Northern California (SONCC) wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Mountain Creek ..................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat for threatened marbled murrelet; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Fork Bald Mountain Creek ....................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum Creek .......................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panthertown Creek ....................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork Panthertown Creek .......................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Fork Panthertown Creek .......................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Creek ...........................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Creek ......................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackberry Creek ....................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork Blackberry Creek ........................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCloudy Creek .....................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Creek ..........................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter Creek .......................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCloudy Creek .....................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Mountain Creek ...............................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molalla ..............................................</td>
<td>Cultural, Scenic, Fish, Recreation, Geology</td>
<td>Five identified cultural sites; highly rated scenery includes gorges river and views of cliffs, moss-covered boulders and diverse stream-side vegetation, critical habitat for wild salmon, and wild steelhead, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogue River Additions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alder Creek ........................................</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrow Creek ........................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation</td>
<td>View of and from the Rogue River canyon, and the Rogue River National Recreational Trail, cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey Creek .......................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Fish, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Windy Creek ....................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork Big Windy Creek ........................</td>
<td>Fish, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Windy Creek ................................</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buzz Creek ..........................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunker Creek ......................................</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology, Wildlife</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Creek ......................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corral Creek .......................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowley Creek ......................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch Creek ........................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oeling Creek .......................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Creek .....................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Creek ......................................</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Botanical, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemmy Creek .......................................</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Creek ......................................</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Botanical, Ecological/Biological Diversity, Wildlife</td>
<td>Mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, mature cutthroat trout; cold water that supports mature forest scenic values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table includes both the outstandingly remarkable values that BLM found for the stream segments, as well as additional values.
His service to our Nation in the U.S. Air Force as well as his dedication to continue his service by providing care to Montana mothers and babies is exemplary of the Montana spirit. He has changed the lives of many families across Montana by giving them personal care through challenging times.

RECOGNIZING EXPERTISE

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, each week the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship recognizes one small business that exemplifies the hard work and perseverance of the American Dream and the American entrepreneur. The great State of Nevada is home to more than 250,000 small businesses of all types, from mom-and-pop shop bakeries to world-renowned cyber security firms. Nevada’s small businesses are the driving force behind the state’s rapidly growing economy and the engine that powers our communities. It is therefore my honor to recognize Nevada’s Expertise Cosmetology Institute, a small business with a strong and deep-rooted commitment to improving lives and a desire to give back to the community, for recently having been named the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week.

Small businesses are the driving force for development and growth in Nevada but across our entire Nation. Small businesses like Gwen’s not only help our economy succeed, they also give back by uplifting our communities, inspiring others to reach new heights and contribute to the foundation of our communities.

I would also like to recognize Mrs. Gwen Braimoh who, in addition to managing Expertise Cosmetology, also runs the Expertise New Path program in Nevada. The Expertise New Path program helps women earn their cosmetology license while incarcerated at Florence McClure Women’s Correctional Center in North Las Vegas, NV. Mrs. Braimoh’s passion for helping the less fortunate and those who wish to build a better life for themselves is changing lives and improving our communities across the State of Nevada.

Small businesses truly are the driving force for development and growth in Nevada but across our entire Nation. Small businesses like Gwen’s not only help our economy succeed, they also give back by uplifting our communities, inspiring others to
open businesses of their own and changing lives for the better.

Again, I would like to recognize Mrs. Gwen Braimoh and all the employees at Expertise Cosmetology Institute for their contribution to Nevada and our Nation. I congratulate them for being named the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee’s Small Business of the Week.

RECOGNIZING RETREADED

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chair- man of the Committee on Small Busi- ness and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exempli- fies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our economy. It is my privilege to honor a Florida small business that not only produces out- standing products but also assists sur- vivors of human trafficking by pro- viding dignified work and a second chance at life. This week, it is my pleasure to recognize Rethreaded of Jacksonville, FL as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Rethreaded was established in 2011 following founder Kristin Keen’s return from India where she worked with victims of human trafficking. Realizing that there was a need in her own community to provide opportunities to sur- vivors, Kristin sought to create a safe haven where women could learn skills while also earning a living. Many Rethreaded employees are survivors of human trafficking and since its launch, Rethreaded has employed 40 women. The company has raised aware- ness about the horrific realities of human trafficking in the immediate community and beyond as well.

Rethreaded sells conscious gifts and handcrafted accessories such as purses, scarves, and jewelry at its storefront in Jacksonville, as well as online. Their website not only provides nationwide customers access to their products, but it also serves as a platform from which they promote human rights issues that are foundational to Rethreaded’s pur- pose.

Over the years, Rethreaded has partnered with more than 300 compa- nies, including Southwest Airlines, which provides airline seat leather for various “upcycled” products such as keychains and earrings. Since the be- ginning of this partnership, Southwest has purchased more than 5,400 pounds of leather to Rethreaded, saving 2.8 tons of waste from entering our Nation’s landfills. This partnership provided na- tional exposure, but it was not the first time Rethreaded has received acclaim. The company appeared on “Project Runway All Stars,” an opportunity which gave their brand yet another chance to promote their mission. Addi- tionally, Rethreaded has established relationships with numerous strategic partners, named Freedom Partners, which supply ready-made products from around the world. Selling these ready-made products in the Rethreaded storefront and online supports like- minded enterprises that also strive to end human trafficking.

Rethreaded not only creates sustain- able products for a good cause but also provides a supportive community for women who are in need of hope and healing. In addition to providing em- ployment, Rethreaded has established programs to assist employees in the re- covery process. Programs such as its warm-line telephone crisis support service, mental health group services, care management services, and indi- vidual counseling services target the unique challenges facing trauma vic- tims.

Congratulations to Kristin and the entire team at Rethreaded on their 8 years of service. I commend their ef- forts to provide dignified employment and skills training to women in our community who have been impacted by human trafficking. Rethreaded is a great example of the positive impact social entrepreneurship ventures can have in our communities. I look for- ward to watching their continued growth and success.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a mes- sage from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen- sions.

(The message received today is print- ed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:31 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 241. An act to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 242. An act to amend the Federal Re- serve Act to require Federal Reserve banks to interview at least one individual reflect- ing of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity when appointing Federal Reserve bank presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 381. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for and make determinations regarding roads to be designated under the national scenic by- ways program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 241. An act to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 381. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for and make determinations regarding roads to be designated under the national scenic by- ways program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–2482. A communication from the Direc- tor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit- ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en- titled “Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9998–21) received during adjourn- ment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi- dent of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2483. A communication from the Direc- tor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit- ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti- tled “Alcohols, C2–33, Manuf. of By-prod- ing, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en- titled “Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9998–21) received during adjourn- ment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi- dent of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 241. An act to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 242. An act to amend the Federal Re- serve Act to require Federal Reserve banks to interview at least one individual reflect- ing of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity when appointing Federal Reserve bank presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 381. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for and make determinations regarding roads to be designated under the national scenic by- ways program, and for other purposes.

EC–2482. A communication from the Direc- tor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit- ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en- titled “Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9998–21) received during adjourn- ment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi- dent of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2483. A communication from the Direc- tor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit- ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
“Safety Zone; Ohio River, Portsmouth, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0552)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2532. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; San Pedro, California” ((RIN1625-AA07) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0589)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2533. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Lafitte, LA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0555)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2534. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Kentucky Dam Marina Fireworks, Gilbertsville, KY” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0602)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2535. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River, Newburgh, IN” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0551)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2536. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Delaware River, Baker Range, DE and NJ” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0550)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2537. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River, Point Pleasant, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0665)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2538. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Delaware Bay, Lewes, DE to Cape May, NJ” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0542)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2539. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Charlesmont, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0691)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2540. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Homewood Wedding Fireworks Display, Lake Tahoe, Homewood, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0693)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2541. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Folgers, Ohio, in the vicinity of Portsmouth, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0541)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2542. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawing Operations, Terminal Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference” ((RIN2120-AA46) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0627)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2543. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0442)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2544. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA46) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0322)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2545. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA46) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0322)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2546. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of new Title X regulations that will impede access to essential, time-sensitive health care for low-income individuals across California and the nation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE September 11, 2019

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the federal Title X family planning program was established in 1970 by the United States Congress with broad bipartisan support to provide family planning services and other preventive care to low-income and uninsured individuals who may otherwise lack access to health care; and

Whereas, Title X is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning services, including birth control, pregnancy testing, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; and

Whereas, California’s Title X provider network, which is the largest and most diverse Title X system in the nation, served more than one million low-income Californians in 2017 and over 25 percent of all Title X patients nationwide; and

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-132. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the Department of Health and Human Services to rescind the new Title X regulations that will impede access to essential, time-sensitive health care for low-income individuals across California and the nation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
Section 1. That pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi joins in the applications of the States of Georgia (SR 736, 2014), Florida (SM 476, 2014), Alaska (SR 22, 2012, 15), Texas (SRJ 22, 2012, 15), Indiana (SRJ 67, 2016), Indiana (SRJ 67, 2016), Pennsylvania (SRJ 6, 2011), North Dakota (HCR 3006, 2017), Arizona (HCR 606, 2017), Michigan (HCR 514, 2017), Oklahoma (SRJ 4, 2016), Louisiana (SCR 52, 2016), Texas (SRJ 22, 2012, 15), Missouri (SCR 4, 2017), North Dakota (HCR 3006, 2017), Arizona (HCR 606, 2017), Wisconsin (SR 3, 2019) to call a Convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States limited to the purposes stated in those applications; provided, however, that the commissioners from Mississippi to the Convention are expressly authorized to consider and support of amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, and amendments that limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and no amendments on any other topic whatsoever. The Mississippi delegates are hereby instructed not to support term limits for members of Congress.

Section 2. It is the express intention of the Mississippi Legislature that this application is to be aggregated with the applications of the above-mentioned states and with subsequent applications of other states limited to the purposes identified in this application and in those applications of the above-mentioned states.

Section 3. The Legislature of the United States adopts this application expressly subject to the following reservations, understandings and declarations:

(a) An application to the Congress of the United States to call an Amendment Convention of the States under Article V of the United States Constitution confers no power to Congress other than the power to call such a Convention. The power of Congress to exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the authority to name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a Convention;

(b) Congress shall perform its ministerial duty of calling an Amendment Convention of the States only upon the receipt of applications for an Amendment Convention for the substantially same purpose as this application from two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states;

(c) Congress does not have the power or authority to define any rules for the governing of a Convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. Congress does not have the power to determine any rules for the governing of a Convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. Congress does not have the power to determine any rules for the governing of a Convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Mississippi, the House of Representatives Concurring Therein:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:
   a bill to amend and reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (Rept. No. 115-101).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times, and ordered to a third reading:

By Mr. RUBIO:
   S. 2460. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to modify a provision relating to acquisition of beach fill; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. SCHUMER):
   S. 2461. A bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BROWN)
   S. 2462. A bill to help reduce household energy burdens by expanding access to solar...
energy for low-income households; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COONS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKSY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SMITH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2463. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for regulation and taxation of electronic cigarettes and alternative nicotine products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2464. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to invoke injunctive relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2465. A bill to enact as law certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2466. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for safe and secure water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BUMEN), Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2467. A bill to establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved urban communities and rural communities to green spaces; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2468. A bill to require employers to provide training to employees whose jobs are in danger of being changed or replaced due to technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 308. A resolution calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Ms. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. TOOMY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. TOOMY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 903

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1413, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish an initiative on improving the capacity of military criminal investigative organizations to prevent child sexual exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1413

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1564, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agencies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes.

S. 1564

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1625, a bill to promote the deployment of commercial fifth-generation mobile networks and the sharing of information with communications providers in the United States regarding security risks to the networks of those providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to provide Medicaid assistance to individuals and families affected by a disaster or emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 1754

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1784, a bill to provide for the issuance of a Stamp Out Elder Abuse Semipostal Stamp.

S. 1784

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1940, a bill to establish certain exemptions from the small refineries exemption of the renewable fuels provisions under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1940
At the request of Mr. Peters, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1846, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Boozman, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Scott of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to require the Secretaries of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball.

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as cosponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

At the request of Mr. Durbin, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

At the request of Mr. Scott of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Warner, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2242, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Presidential campaigns to detect and report such acts.

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2459, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of certain disputes arising from claims of servicemembers and veterans.

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. Romney) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

At the request of Mr. Graham, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Inhofe), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 308—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OR TO RELEASE UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL WHELAN

Mr. Peters (for himself and Ms. Stabenow) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 308

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of a personal friend on December 19, 2018;

Whereas Russia’s Federal Security Service arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and continues to be held there more than eight months after his arrest;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court has extended Paul Whelan’s pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas officials from the United States Embassy in Moscow have routinely had their topics of discussion with Paul Whelan severely limited by the Federal Security Service;

Whereas even Paul Whelan’s Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, (The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we’ve seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.);

Whereas the Russian ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, ‘‘If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.’’;

Whereas Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to present credible evidence on the allegations against Paul Whelan or immediately release him from detention;

(2) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains in detention;

(3) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to ensure Paul Whelan is afforded due process and universally recognized human rights;

(4) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to continue to press the Government of the Russian Federation at every opportunity and urge the Government of the Russian Federation to guarantee a fair and transparent judicial process without undue delay in accordance with its international legal obligation; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to an end.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 1941, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 205, a bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10
a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Katherine Lemos to be Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Steven J. Menashi to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen S. Marston to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Richard E Myers II to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Anuraag Singhal to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 99, S. 178.

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

The junior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention and torture of these communities inside and outside China.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to direct United States resources to address gross violations of universally recognized human rights, including the mass internment of over 1,000,000 Uyghurs and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in China and the intimidation and threats faced by United States citizens and legal permanent residents.

SEC. 3. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committees on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People’s Republic of China has a long history of repressing approximately 130 Turkic, predominately Sunni Muslims, particularly Uyghurs, in the nomially autonomous Xinjiang region. These actions and the contravention of international human rights standards are in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(2) In recent decades, central and regional Chinese government policies have systematically discriminated against Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and other Muslims in Xinjiang by denying them a range of civil and political rights, including the freedoms of expression, religion, movement, and a fair trial, among others.

(3) Increased unrest in the Xinjiang region as a result of the government’s severe repression is used in Orwellian fashion by the Government of the People’s Republic of China as evidence of terrorism and “separatism” and as an excuse for further disproportionate response.

(4) In 2014, Chinese authorities launched their latest “Strike Hard against Violent Extremism” campaign, in which the pretext of wide-scale, internationally linked threats of terrorism were used to justify pervasive restrictions on, and gross human rights violations against, the ethnic minority communities of Xinjiang.

(5) Those policies include—

(A) pervasive, high-tech surveillance across the region, including the arbitrary collection of biometric data, such as DNA samples from children, without their knowledge or consent;

(B) the use of QR codes outside homes to gather information on how frequently individuals pray;

(C) facial and voice recognition software and “predictive policing” databases; and

(D) severe restrictions on the freedom of movement across the region.

(6) Chinese security forces have never been held accountable for credible reports of mass shootings and torture, as documented (2013), and Strïqbýu, (2013), as well as the extrajudicial killings of Abdulbasit Ablimit (2013) and Rozz Osman (2014).

(7)(A) The transfer of former Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Chen Quangqiu to become the Xinjiang Party Secretary prompted an acceleration in the crackdown across the region.

(B) Local officials in Xinjiang have used chilling political rhetoric to describe the purpose of government policy, including “eradicating tumors” and “uprooting” centers to kill the “weeds.”

(C) Uyghurs are forced to celebrate Chinese cultural traditions, such as Chinese New Year, and one Uighur culture is facing eradication due to state control over Uyghur cultural heritage, such as muqam (a musical tradition) and meshreb (traditional cultural gatherings), and the use of the Uyghur language as a medium of instruction in Xinjiang schools and universities.

(8) In 2017, credible reports found that family members of those living outside of China had gone missing inside China, that Chinese authorities were pressuring those outside the country to return, and that individuals were being arbitrarily detained.

(9) There is ample credible evidence provided by scholars, human rights organizations, journalists, and think tanks substantiating the establishment by Chinese authorities of “political reeducation” camps.

(10) Independent organizations conducted investigations, including the Washington Post editorial board wrote, “A state is not just the welfare of the Uyghurs, but also whether the
technologies of the 21st century will be employed to smother human freedom."

(21) In December 2018 testimony before the Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Financial Institutions of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Scott Busby testified that the number of internments in camps since April 2017 was "at least 800,000 and possibly more than 2 million".

(22) In December 2018, independent media reports pointed to growing evidence of forced labor in the camps, as well as reports of individuals who have been released from camps being forced to provide information and evidence for the re-education camps under threat of being sent back to "political re-education" camps.

(23) In December 2018 and January 2019, Chinese officials organized visits to "political re-education" camps in Xinjiang for a small group of foreign journalists and diplomats from 12 non-Western countries. In the months preceding the visits, international media reported that officials worked to remove security features from some "political reeducation" facilities, and coached detainees and area residents not to make legal or political comments about the circumstances.

(24) It is reported by officials of the Xinjiang region as "a police state to rival North Korea," with a formal racism on the order of South African apartheid" and the repression in the Xinjiang region as "one of the darkest chapters in the 21st century of human rights.

(25) On December 31, 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409), which condemned China's "forced disappearances, extralegal detentions, and consistent surveillance, and lack of due process in judicial proceedings," authorized funding in the promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in China, and supported sanctions designations against any entity or individual that—

(A) violates human rights or religious freedoms;

(B) engages in censorship activities.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should condemn abuses against Turkic Muslims by Chinese authorities in Xinjiang and call on China to release all detained and imprisoned Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims; (2) China should facilitate the mass internment or forced labor of Turkic Muslims, to the "Entity List" administered by the Department of Commerce.

(6) The United States companies and individuals by United States-made goods or services to any entity or individual that—

(A) supports, or facilitates, the mass internment or forced labor of Turkic Muslims, to the "Entity List" administered by the Department of Commerce.

(9) the Secretary of State should appoint a Uyghur--American as Special Coordinator for the United States to commend and support the diaspora can provide details about missing family members, with a view towards pressing for information and accountability from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party within the United States and those whose families in China have experienced harassment or detention because of their work or advocacy.

(b) DATABASE OF DETAINED FAMILY MEMBERS OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS.—The Secretary of State should explore appropriate mechanisms to establish a voluntary database to which United States citizens or permanent residents who are ethnic Uyghurs and Chinese nationals legally studying or working temporarily in the United States, who have experienced harassment or in- quality communities, with a view towards pressing for information and accountability from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party within the United States and those whose families in China have experienced harassment or detention because of their work or advocacy.

(2) the deployment of technologically advanced surveillance and police detection methods; and

(3) the counterterrorism and counter-radicalism claims used to justify the policies of the Government of the People's Republic of China in Xinjiang.

(10) the United States companies and individuals providing government--sponsored media with information and accountability from the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

(23) In December 2018 and January 2019, Chinese authorities have released 2,000,000".

(24) The Federal Bureau of Investigation and appropriate United States law enforcement entities should take similar steps and coordinate closely on targeted sanctions and visa restrictions.

(25) The Secretary of State should appoint a United States Special Coordinator for Xinjiang, from officers and employees of the Department of State, who will coordinate diplomatic, political, public diplomacy, financial assistance, sanctions, counterterrorism, security resources, and congressional reporting requirements within the United States Government to respond to the mass violations of internationally recognized human rights occurring in the Xinjiang region, including by—

(A) the mass detentions of Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities;

(B) the deployment of technologically advanced surveillance and police detection methods; and

(C) the counterterrorism and counter-radicalism claims used to justify the policies of the Government of the People's Republic of China in Xinjiang.

(10) the United States companies and individuals providing government--sponsored media with information and accountability from the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

(23) In December 2018 and January 2019, Chinese authorities have released 2,000,000".

(24) The Federal Bureau of Investigation and appropriate United States law enforcement entities should take similar steps and coordinate closely on targeted sanctions and visa restrictions.

(25) The Secretary of State should appoint a United States Special Coordinator for Xinjiang, from officers and employees of the Department of State, who will coordinate diplomatic, political, public diplomacy, financial assistance, sanctions, counterterrorism, security resources, and congressional reporting requirements within the United States Government to respond to the mass violations of internationally recognized human rights occurring in the Xinjiang region, including by—

(A) the mass detentions of Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities;

(B) the deployment of technologically advanced surveillance and police detection methods; and

(C) the counterterrorism and counter-radicalism claims used to justify the policies of the Government of the People's Republic of China in Xinjiang.

(10) the United States companies and individuals providing government--sponsored media with information and accountability from the Government of the People’s Republic of China.
(a) I N GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, after consulting relevant Federal agencies and civil society organizations, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make available on the website of the Department of State an interagency report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the number of individuals detained in political “reeducation camps” and conditions in the camps for detainees in the Xinjiang region; and

(b) B RIEFING AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATE-

(2) a description, as possible, of the geographic location of the camps and estimates of the number of people detained in such facilities; and

eral report that includes—

(3) a description, as possible, of the methods used by local Chinese authorities in the Xinjiang region to “reeducate” Uyghur detainees, as well as the People’s Republic of China agencies in charge of reeducation; and

(4) an assessment of the number of individuals being arbitrarily detained, including in pretrial detention centers and prisons;

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
MORNING

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 11, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEVEN AKARD, OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

THE JUDICIARY

ADA E. BROWN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

STEPHANIE S. McCLARY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND.

STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

STEPHANIE L. HAINES, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DALE CABANISS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

JAMES BYRNE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF LABOR.

THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE, VICE R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA, RESIGNED.

MARY S. MCELROY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

EUGENE SCALIA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

MARY K. MCLEHOLLAND, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND.

S5452 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE September 11, 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, September 12; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bowman nomination under the previous order.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, except as provided in subsection (c), submit to Congress a report that includes a statement of whether the persons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria to be designated under section 2246 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–238; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) because they—

(1) are responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in the Xinjiang region of the People’s Republic of China; or

(2) materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such violators.

(b) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The persons described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Party Secretary for Xinjiang region of the People’s Republic of China, Chen Quanguo.

(2) Senior full or alternate members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China whose professional responsibilities relate to the governmental administration of the Xinjiang region, or who have conducted business with government entities in the Xinjiang region.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not be required to submit a report under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, that the Government of the People’s Republic of China allows independent, unrestricted, and unsupervised access to the Xinjiang region for international human rights organizations.

The resolution (S. Res. 267) was agreed to.
IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT BARBIERI ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete and Northeastern Pennsylvania native, Robert Barbieri. This year, Bob was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his distinct athletic achievements in the sport of football.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Bob started his athletic career at Old Forge High School where he was All-Scholastic in football and basketball. Bob played as an offensive lineman, linebacker, and place kicker, once converting 21 straight placements.

After high school, Bob continued playing football at The George Washington University. He was a starting offensive lineman and linebacker from his sophomore year on. During his time at GW, Bob was asked to play in the North-South College All-Star game.

When his college playing days were over, Bob first tried out for the Baltimore Colts. He then moved back to Northeastern Pennsylvania to pursue his passion in a different way. Bob coached the Pittston High School football team where he was highly regarded. During his coaching career from 1966 to 1998, he had a record of 159 wins, 100 losses, and 4 ties. His Patriots won 5 Wyoming Valley Conference A Division Championships and tied for conference A Division Championships and tied for two 10–0 records during the season before facing Shikellamy in a hard-fought championship game that ended in a scoreless tie.

Bob was a two-time Coach of the Year (1974 and 1981), and he also coached the UNICO team twice (1970 and 1985). While at Pittston Area, he also coached girls' basketball, boys' basketball, junior high basketball, swimming, and junior high track. For his outstanding efforts and career, the athletic field house located in Charlie Tippi Stadium was named the Robert “Bob” Barbieri Field House in 2014.

It is an honor to recognize Bob on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE LOST AND THOSE WHO GAVE AND RISKED THEIR LIVES DURING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on this, the 18th anniversary of the attack launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I rise to remember the victims of that horrific tragedy and those first-responders who risked, and in too many cases, sacrificed their lives to rescue the occupants of the besieged World Trade Center Towers.

The morning of September 11, 2001 is, and will always be, a day like no other. It is a day all living Americans will remember because not since Pearl Harbor had there been such a dastardly and deadly attack on American soil.

Eighteen years later, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175.

When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, none of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City and the Pentagon, and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives.

My prayer is that for those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord’s loving arms.

And down here on the ground, their memory will never die so long as any of the many of us who loved them lives.

Madam Speaker, I watched as the first, and then the second, plane flew into the World Trade Center and was horrified when the buildings came down.

I was in The Capitol and saw the billowing smoke from the wreckage at the Pentagon and was told about the missing third plane that met its fiery end in the empty fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania thanks to the selfless act of patriotic and heroic Americans.

But as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged in the aftermath of September 11.

On that day there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters. We were not Red State or Blue State. We were all simply Americans.

On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness.
We are united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that have made America the greatest country in the history of the world.

Later that day, I joined scores of my colleagues on the East Steps of the Capitol where we sang “God Bless America”, candles, held hands, and prayed for our country and its leaders.

In the days ahead, I travelled to New York City to visit first responders and victims still recovering bodies and rescuing victims of the attacks. I became a charter member of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that 9-11 never again happens in America. A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan, making good on the pledge that “[w]hether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done.”

And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Ladin could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Madam Speaker, Americans take care of their own. Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty.

And Americans want peace.

Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe.

Madam Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed eighteen years ago today.

We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives.

We owe it to them to ensure that their children and loved ones will never again experience such pain, suffering, and loss.

We can do this. We must do this. After all, we are Americans.

IN REMEMBRANCE ON THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

HON. PETER T. KING
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of all the lost lives and families of 9/11, on the 18th anniversary with a poetic tribute penned by Albert Carey Caswell. Sadly, we are living daily with the second wave on 9/11 with the loss of all those magnificent responders who stayed on to help recover our lost loved ones. Our prayers go out to them and their families on this day.

And on this day . . .

We gather and pray, forgetting not all those who have paid the ultimate price.

But, with their most precious lives on that day, and continue to in every way . . .

With the price so grave . . .

And for all of their loved ones living and the lost,

who now lie in such cold quiet graves the cost.

And the ones whose precious bodies we could not bury nor save . . .

Oh how the tears come our way,

wishing somehow to each heart remorse convey . . .

Our thoughts and prayers go with them in their pain each day . . .

As we add new names to this list that which evil gave.

With more and more Heroes going to their graves . . .

All in the aftermath of 9/11 and in its second wave . . .

Were all those heroes who dug in deep,

to find our most precious loved ones while in the midst this evil speaks . . .

All so their loved ones could find solace, and bury their loved ones in the earth deep down beneath . . .

On this day to stop and pray to these hearts which speak . . .

And give thanks and remembrance for all and each . . .

The families whom we can not be repaid . . .

God Is Good and God Is Great, all in such magnificent heroes he creates . . .

And for such selflessness there can be no greater gift than this.

Then, all of those Gotham Hearts who stood so courageously on that day we miss.

And laid down their lives illuminating our souls in the light of hope’s golden rays . . .

With rays of hope and faith and courage and glory to our children we must convey . . .

And now all of the new battles which lie ahead,

for all of those who stayed on the site who too now blood must shed . . .

Trying to give closure to the families,

so their loved ones could be lowered into such solemn graves . . .

As its for them and all of their loved ones in this new battle pray . . .

And for all those innocents who died just because they went to work that day . . .

We Can Not and Will Never Forget . . .

As like them too we must face each new day . . .

With the determination and grit and courage as they . . .

To live our lives but For The Greater Good each day . . .

And for all those who stayed on the site who too now blood must shed . . .

As we have built in their honor this magnificent shrine upon hearts which stays . . .

Which rises out of the ashes of hate in its light up even in time . . .

So very splendid and so very fine . . .

That which now will so surely stand the test of time . . .

So that from generation to generation all of our children will find . . .

The answer to winning the battle against evil in its darkest of times . . .

Goodness, Evil, Darkness, Light, those brave hearts who evil must fight. . .

Who bring their light, together enjoined as we battle on into that dark night . . .

And That The Darkness is no match for The Light . . .

As we pray our souls be filled with such hope and such faith as they so bright . . .

Knowing full well that time does not heal all, only up in Heaven when out to us our love ones call . . .

When, once again together again . . .

Let us find peace, let us find rest, let us mend with our Lord us to bless . . .

And watch over all of the families in their battle in the second wave 9/11’s direst . . .

And all of the families who lost loved ones and gave all in death . . .

As we thank and remember all of America’s Best . . .

ON THIS DAY . . .

In memory of all those beautiful people who lost their lives and their loved ones on 9/11, and still lose more today in the second wave of 9/11’s tragedy. May God Bless them all and hold them in palm of his hands . . .

WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

TRIBUTE TO J’S MAINTENANCE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Waldheim family upon the 50th anniversary of J’s Maintenance in Glendale, California.

For over a half a century, J’s Maintenance has provided clients with superb commercial janitorial services and is an outstanding example of a family-owned business that cares about their customers’ satisfaction, their staff’s wellbeing and their community.

Ed and Linda Waldheim bought the small janitorial service company in 1969 and re-built it essentially from the ground up. They have had clients ranging from individual residences to large companies like J.C. Penney and Sears. Their son, Chris Waldheim, currently runs the company. Under Chris’s leadership, the company has set a great example by conducting their business in an environmentally friendly way, from installing solar panels on their roof to using green chemicals for their cleaning services. Additionally, J’s Maintenance has implemented a recycling program and has saved thousands of pounds of waste from entering our landfills.

In addition to their business success, the Waldheim family also exemplifies what it means to be civic leaders. The family supports Relay for Life, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society to conduct research and provide services to patients while in treatment and are avid supporters of the Crescenta Valley and Montrose Chambers of Commerce. J’s Maintenance has also invested in the local schools in the Crescenta Valley area by sponsoring activities like Clark Magnet High School’s robotics team and fundraising for Crescenta Valley High School’s prom. Most notably, however, is Chris’s support for and involvement with the YMCA of the Foothills. He served as a board member for several years, holding leadership positions, chaired the Community Support Campaign for three years, and he and his family continuously support the YMCA’s events. In 2011, Chris was awarded the Pat Aho Volunteer of the Year Award for his long-lasting involvement with the YMCA.

Our community has greatly benefited from the hard work and dedication of the Waldheim family and their business. J’s Maintenance, I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating the Waldheim family upon the 50th anniversary of J’s Maintenance.
RECOGNIZING D. M. BOWMAN'S 60 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. DAVID J. TRONE
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize D. M. Bowman, Inc., a transportation and logistics company based in Williamsport, Maryland. This company has used innovation and work ethic to grow and thrive in the trucking world. In 1996, D. M. Bowman Founder and Chairman Don Bowman designated this week as Driver Appreciation Week, an annual event celebrating the hard work drivers do every day. This year, I am honored to highlight the achievements of his incredible company and recognize our nation’s truck drivers, who provide all Americans a great service.

This year, D. M. Bowman is celebrating 60 years in business. Throughout this time, the company has been an invaluable source of economic activity and jobs for Maryland’s Sixth District. Although the business began as a one-man operation, due to Don Bowman’s determination and expertise, it quickly began to pick up speed. Now, D. M. Bowman has an exceptional fleet of 382 power units and 8 terminals on the east coast. As the company grew, so did its outreach efforts. Today, D. M. Bowman works with Hagerstown Community College Driving School to help individuals who obtain their commercial driver’s licenses find new career opportunities.

On behalf of the residents of Maryland’s Sixth Congressional District, I thank D. M. Bowman and its dedicated team for all that they have done for our community and recognize the 112,900 people employed by the trucking industry in our great state.

RECOGNIZING DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANT, MARGOT BESTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished public servant, Margot Bester, who, after nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the American people, is retiring from her position as Principal Deputy Chief Counsel at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Ms. Bester has served as second in command of the Office of Chief Counsel since the months following the creation of TSA, a component of the Department of Homeland Security created by Congress to ensure transportation security for our nation in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks which occurred 18 years ago today.

In coordination with the Chief Counsel, Ms. Bester has overseen the legal work of the attorneys at TSA and has been primarily responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Office of Chief Counsel.

Ms. Bester joined the TSA Office of Chief Counsel in April 2002. In August of that year, she was selected by Admiral James Loy, then Under Secretary of Transportation for Security, to represent TSA in its transition to DHS. She also served as the transportation security advisor to DHS Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson. In recognition of her service to the newly formed Department, Ms. Bester received the Department of Homeland Security “Day One” Award.

Early in her career, she was Director of Regulatory Relations with the United States Telephone Association and an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission.

A first-generation American, Ms. Bester was born in Buffalo, NY, to parents that had been granted asylum in our country after surviving the atrocities of the Second World War. Love of country and the importance of being an active, engaged citizen were ingrained at a young age. Ms. Bester has often spoken of the great honor of serving, protecting, and giving back to our nation, which provided opportunity and security for her family during dire circumstances.

Her passion for public service is second only to her dedication to her family. Of her many accomplishments, Ms. Bester is most proud as a mother to her sons, Brian and Eric, and as grandmother to Chase and Ava.

After spending a career protecting our Nation’s transportation security, Ms. Bester now heads to an extremely well-deserved retirement from Federal service. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending the very best wishes and congratulations of the House as well as our thanks for her remarkable career and her notable service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM THOMAS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Executive Director Jim Thomas. Jim received the 2019 Community Service Award from the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his leadership and service to the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Throughout his career, Jim has been dedicated to the community in a variety of roles. Following graduation from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park with a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation, Jim immediately put his knowledge to action by serving as the Seaonal YMCA Summer Camp Director from Camp Kresge in White Haven, Pennsylvania. Later, Jim became the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Youth Director. He established a local indoor premier soccer program with more than two-thousand participants, while also working with the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources to start a YMCA program located in a state park.

From June 1986 to April 1994, Jim served as the Wilkes-Barre YMCA Program Executive, where he was responsible for membership and program development. Since May 1994, Jim has served as the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Executive Director, successfully spearheading numerous campaigns and raising millions of dollars to improve facilities of Wilkes-Barre YMCA and to offer access opportunities to low income families. He also led efforts to construct five new facilities at Camp Kresge and rebuild existing infrastructure to improve the camp for future generations.

Jim is also a member of numerous associations and societies, including the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society, the Pennsylvania State University Recreation and Parks Society, the Kiwanis Club of Wilkes-Barre, the Riverfront Parks Association, the Downtown Business Association, and the State Public Policy Committee.

It is an honor to join with the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in recognizing Jim’s lifetime of effort. May his hard work and dedication to the community continue to have a lasting impact on the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEVEN S. SMITH

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Steven S. Smith, who is retiring from the Drug Enforcement Administration, after 24 years of law enforcement service, culminating as Supervisory Special Agent assigned to the Pharmaceutical Investigations Section as the Group Supervisor for Mobile Diversion Team One (MDT–1) based in Springfield, Virginia.

Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Steven Smith entered on duty with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on March 15, 1995 in Miami, Florida. SSA Smith was first assigned to the Los Angeles Field Division. During his fifteen-year tenure in Los Angeles, then Special Agent (SA) Smith worked in enforcement groups targeting methamphetamine production and trafficking, and Asian heroin distribution. Working in a multi-agency environment at the Southern California Drug Task Force and LAX Group Three, SA Smith coordinated surveillance operations with over a dozen different law enforcement agencies while supporting Title III investigations. While investigating narcotics and money couriers passing through LAX airport, SA Smith’s intel- ligence background in both law enforcement and the military enabled him to rapidly link detained suspects to active federal, state, and local criminal investigations around the country and build partnerships which enhanced the quality of the LAX–G3 cases.

In August 2010, SA Smith transferred to the Las Vegas District Office as a member of the Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS). While assigned to the Las Vegas TDS, SA Smith led an investigation targeting a doctor and an international organized crime ring responsible for the distribution of tens of thousands of prescription tablets. This investigation resulted in the seizure of over 8000 d.u. of oxycodone, $58,000 U.S. currency, and evidence identifying a local pharmacy as a significant
oxycodone and hydrocodone source of supply. During his tenure at the Las Vegas TDS, SA Smith’s investigations brought money laundering charges, substantial monetary civil penalties, and regulatory sanctions to bear along with Title 21 violations against DEA registrants and diversion drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

In November 2012, SA Smith was promoted to Group Supervisor (GS) of the Oakland Resident Office TDS with an area of responsibility which included over 50,000 DEA registrants in 15 counties of northern coastal California. SA Smith enhanced the mission effectiveness of the group by directing major enforcement initiatives at high value targets within the TDS Area of Responsibility (AoR). Asset seizures from his group increased nearly fourfold from $510,180 to $1,988,741, which enabled GS Smith to persuade local agencies to double the number of investigators assigned as Task Force Officers to the TDS. Under SA Smith’s leadership, Oakland TDS investigations charged eight doctors and three physician’s assistants with criminal offenses and put those doctors and assistants in prison for good.

Prior to employment with the DEA, Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Smith served on Active Duty as an Army Reserve Military Intelligence Officer at the South Florida Investigative Support Center (now the South Florida HIDTA Intelligence Center). SSA Smith served in Iraq under the U.S. Army VCorps during the 2003 invasion. SSA Smith maintained staff oversight of all tactical human intelligence operations in theatre while serving as the CJTF-7 Task Force Counterintelligence Coordination Authority charged with the de-conflicting of all counterintelligence operations in the Iraqi Theatre of Operations. SSA Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Florida International University and currently resides in Loudoun County with his wife and two children. I am proud to represent Mr. Smith in Congress and I thank him and his family for their honorable service to our nation with the United States Army. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Smith as he concludes a distinguished career in public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR RONALD N. WEISER AND THE OPENING OF THE WEISER DIPLOMACY CENTER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser in so many arenas but today specifically for his leadership in launching the Weiser Diplomacy Center at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

The Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan is America’s first graduate public service training program. Since 1914, the Ford School has been teaching students to address the nation’s most pressing concerns by using research and cutting-edge problem-solving methodologies to develop actionable policy solutions. The Ford School is renowned for its quantitative analysis of a wide-range of policy issues, making the school a frequent destination for distinguished policymakers from around the world.

Thanks to the wisdom and understanding of University of Michigan alumni and Regent Ronald Weiser and his wife Eileen, the Weiser Diplomacy Center was dedicated at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy in January 2019. The Weiser Diplomacy Center provides a forum for leading diplomats and foreign policy experts to gather and offer practical training sessions and simulations to students to supplement their studies. The center will bring a diverse cadre of seasoned diplomats and foreign policy experts to campus. This year alone, the center will successfully connect students with distinguished leaders like Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, and Samantha Power, to name a few. In addition, the center sponsors a program for Weiser Diplomacy Fellows and helps students find internships pertaining to foreign affairs. The center will include lessons for students to practice international diplomacy and opportunities to learn from diplomats from around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser for his dedication to the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. The immediate success of the center is due in no small part to his work and tremendous leadership. Ambassador Weiser’s own experiences have demonstrated to him the importance of preparing students in a quickly shifting foreign policy world through engagement with experts. The Weiser Diplomacy Center will be an invaluable resource not only for the students participating, but to our country as it trains the leaders of the future. This new diplomacy center will be critical for young people to engage with members of the foreign policy community and inspire a new generation of the importance of this field.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF GLENDI

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Glendi, a Greek festival held annually in my hometown of Manchester, NH. Over the past four decades, St. George’s Greek Orthodox Cathedral has hosted this event, which celebrates Greek culture, crafts, music, and, of course, food.

Every year, Glendi brings together thousands of people from across New Hampshire and the region to celebrate the contributions and traditions of Greek culture in America. I grew up and remain a member of the St. George’s family, which for over 100 years has welcomed the faithful to gather and be part of this time-honored community. Now as a member of Congress I could not be more proud to mark this milestone.

My great-grandfather Arthur Papathanasiou left Livadi, Elssassia, a tiny hilltop town in Turkish-occupied northern Greece, to start a better life in 1906, and like many Greek immigrants, his family brought their culture and food and traditions with them.

As a life-long resident of Manchester, Glendi was always a highlight and the chance to see those traditions and culture on display was particularly special. There is truly no better celebration of the many contributions the Greek community have made in the greater Manchester area than Glendi.

By sharing our Greek traditions with the broader Manchester community, the festival makes our city more beautiful, more connected. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I want to thank George Copadis—President of the Board of Directors, Father Mike, and the St. George’s community for their decades of dedication to the center. Together, they make our city more inclusive and open.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGELINE "ANGIE" NANNI

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angeline “Angie” Nanni for her critical role in the once highly classified Venona Project breaking Soviet communications. Angie, with her unparalleled gift for numbers and analytical thinking, dedicated her career to breaking codes to maintain the safety and security of the United States during the Cold War.

Born August 2, 1918 in the small town of Blairsville, PA, Angie was expected to work in her sisters’ beauty salon. Not passionate about being a beautician, she ran the business side of the shop. However, during the end of WWII, Angie and her sisters set off to Washington, D.C. to help with the war effort. Once the war was over, Angie decided to stay near the capital. When the opportunity to take an exam for a government job arose, she decided to take it.

Angie, one of the only non-college educated women taking the coded exam, not only passed with flying colors, but also was the first person to finish the exam. Her natural affinity for numbers allowed her to strip down the codes and extract the pertinent information. Angie joined the female-dominated coalition of cryptanalysts based in Arlington, Virginia post. Described as a “needle-in-a-haystack ability,” Angie’s job was to match messages coming from two distinct channels, accessing vital information, and passing that information on to the Venona Project until it ended in 1980.

At her retirement party, nobody knew from what job she was retiring.

Due to her hard work, in addition to the other members of the Venona Project, many encrypted messages from the KGB were able to be deciphered. Some of the most notable codes Angie helped break were names for numbers allowed her to strip down the codes and extract the pertinent information. Angie joined the female-dominated coalition of cryptanalysts based in Arlington, Virginia post. Described as a “needle-in-a-haystack ability,” Angie’s job was to match messages coming from two distinct channels, accessing vital information, and passing that information on to the Venona Project until it ended in 1980.

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At her retirement party, nobody knew from what job she was retiring.
It is a great honor to recognize Angie Nanni for her service to our nation throughout her life. May she inspire others to recognize their true potential to make a difference in the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately was unable to attend the scheduled vote series on Monday, September 9, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 515 and yea on Roll Call No. 516.

RECOGNIZING FORMER CAPITOL HILL STAFFERS
HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of former Capitol Hill staffers who will gather in Washington on September 20–22 to celebrate 40 years of bipartisan friendship.

Whether competing in softball and flag football match-ups, celebrating victories over Burgers at the Tune Inn, Christmas caroling with Leader Michel and his colleagues, enjoying weekend road trips to national parks and historic sites, there were always respectful and lively debates on the issues of the day. Accordingly, this group of friends shares a special bond that began right here in these hallowed halls and continues today.

Many of these congressional staffers began their careers in 1979, working over the years for the following Members: Representatives Wendell Bailey, Larry Craig, Dan Crane, Phil Crane, Ed Derwinski, David Emery, Billy Evans, Joe Gaydos, Bo Ginn, Larry Hopkins, Dan Lungren, Ray McGrath, Dawson Mathis, Bob Michel, Hal Rogers, Jim Slattery, Gene Taylor, Bob Whittaker, Henry Waxman, and Viri Weber, and Senators Jake Garn, John Glenn, Jesse Helms, Sam Nunn, Bob Packwood and Richard Stone.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this lasting friendship that began right here in the halls of Congress, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them fondly their days on Capitol Hill and their years of fellowship and fun.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH ANTHONY KARCUTSKIE ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME
HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete Joseph Anthony Karcutskie. This year, Joe was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019 for his impressive athletic achievements in the sport of football.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding accomplishments and contributions in athletic endeavors.

While at Wyoming Area High School, Joe was a three-year starter in football, team captain, All-Conference, All-Scholastic, and All-Region on defense during his junior year. During his senior year, he was All-Conference and All-Scholastic on offense, defense, and as a punter. This awe-inspiring athlete led his team in the number of tackles, sacks, and in punting average.

Joe’s high school career was incredibly impressive, but it was only the beginning. He continued his education at Brown University where he started every collegiate game as middle linebacker. During his junior year, he was named All-American. Still rising to fame, he was voted team captain during his senior year and was named All-Ivy League in 1995, 1996, and 1997. During the same year, he was also voted All-New England. Joe still holds the Brown record for tackles in a season with 137, and he also holds the Brown record for tackles in a career with 404. Joe was the first player ever to record more than 100 tackles in two seasons and is still the only player to lead the team in tackles in three consecutive seasons.

Joe was named a member of Brown University’s 125th Anniversary Team in 2003, inducted into the Wyoming Area Football Ring of Fame in 2004, and was welcomed into the Brown University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

In addition to enjoying a prestigious athletic career, he is currently a Vice President of Investments at Wells Fargo Advisors. He also coaches his son’s baseball team and has been a volunteer coach for soccer and the Wyoming football team.

It is an honor to recognize Joe on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT OF 2019
SPEECH OF HON. FRED UPTON
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 9, 2019
Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record a letter from the DERA Coalition in support of H.R. 1768 on the Diesel Emission Reduction Act.

DERA Coalition

Please support one of the nation’s most effective air quality programs.

When it comes to improving air quality for communities across the country, one of the most effective strategies is to replace older heavy-duty vehicles and equipment with new and much cleaner options. That is the goal of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program managed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We urge you to support continuation of the program as provided under Matsui-Long reauthorization bill (H.R. 1768) which would deliver vital air quality improvements for communities.

Four out of every ten Americans reside in a region with unhealthy air, according to EPA. The American Lung Association estimated that poor air quality around the country is not improving. DERA helps communities clean up their air by replacing older trucks, buses, and equipment with cleaner, cleaner technologies. Replicating just one Class 8 truck with a new model can eliminate tons of emissions. DERA also enjoys broad bipartisan support from a long list of business interests and environmental and health advocates, including those signatories below.

According to the EPA’s latest report to Congress on the program issued in July of this year, since DERA’s funding was first appropriated in 2006, more than 67,000 vehicles and engines have been upgraded or replaced, delivering $19 billion in direct health benefits. Those benefits include eliminating 15,490 tons of fine particles and 427,700 tons of nitrogen oxides, a smog forming compound. That works out to just about the same emission reductions as taking more than 236 million cars off the road for a year.

The program provides just enough funding to encourage owners to make a smart investment in their purchase of cleaner and often more fuel-efficient vehicles and equipment. As a result, every $1 appropriated through the DERA program is leveraged with an additional $3 in nonfederal funds, generating between $11 and $20 in public health benefits and an additional $2 in fuel savings.

While DERA has been around since 2006, there is still much to be done. Heavy-duty trucks and off-road equipment are built to last, meaning a large fleet of older and higher emitting trucks remain in service. Only four in ten trucks on the road today is equipped with technologies to achieve the latest near-zero tailpipe emissions standard set by EPA. Research shows that off-road equipment, including locomotives, are of an even older generation technology and will be in the field for decades to come. DERA provides the funding needed to incentivize the replacement of those older and higher emitting vehicles and equipment. The program is voluntary, competitive, and technology neutral, allowing funding to be used for projects, advancements and locally, that provide the highest benefits for the amount of funding requested.

The Diesel Emission Reduction Act has proved to be one of the most effective tools to generate short-term air quality and health benefits for local communities across the country, but those benefits cannot be sustained without proper funding. We encourage you to support extending the authorization of this cost-effective and environmentally impactful program for an additional five years as provided for under the bill.

Sincerely,

IN RECOGNITION OF W. BROOKE YEAGER III ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Northeastern Pennsylvania athlete W. Brooke Yeager. Brooke was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at their annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his outstanding achievements in the sport of wrestling.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

During his four years at E.L. Meyers High School, Brooke was a three-time Wilkes-Barre City Champion. In 1958, Brooke was named a District 2 Champion. After attending Meyers High School, Brooke continued his education and his dominance on the wrestling mat at Wyoming Seminary, where he was the 1959 National Prep School Champion. Brooke went on to study at Wilkes University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education while also competing on the school's wrestling team. During his years at Wilkes, Brooke won the Middle Atlantic Conference Tournament title and was the recipient of the Outstanding Wrestler Award in 1961. In 1964, Brooke earned second place in the Small College Nations Tournament. Following college, Brooke went on to wrestle with the New York Athletic Club Wrestling Team from 1964 to 1978, earning multiple Freestyle and Greco-Roman titles.

Not only was Brooke a superb athlete, he was also an exceptional wrestling coach. While at Luzerne County Community College, Brooke coached Joel Kislis, a National Junior College Heavyweight Champion. Brooke also served as an assistant coach from 1972 to 1978 at Wilkes College, winning the Small College National Championship in 1974.

Brooke has continued to bring his expertise to his local community. He served as a high school wrestling official for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association for 37 years and as an Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association college official for more than 28 years. For more than 25 years, Brooke and his wife, Libby, have volunteered with the wrestling at the Keystone State Games. Beyond wrestling, Brooke has worked with Luzerne County Community College, teaching general biology since 1968. Additionally, for more than 20 years, Brooke was also an adjunct faculty member at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. In his community, Brooke served on numerous boards and is a current member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wilkes-Barre.

It is an honor to recognize Brooke on his induction to the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. As a wrestling coach and service to the community be a source of inspiration to future athletes in Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act, expressing an idea I began working on when the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing tragedy, well before 9/11. This bill has grown more urgent as increasing varieties of security through the militarization without any thought about their effect on common freedoms and ordinary access. The bill I introduce today would begin a systematic investigation that takes full account of the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding to the real and substantial threats posed by terrorism.

To be useful in accomplishing its difficult mission, the commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but for the first time, they would be at the same table with experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology. To date, questions of security often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts cannot alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group needs to be working together at the same table.

For years now, before our eyes, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and fear of terrorism, even when there are no alerts, without regard to their effects on privacy or on an open society. Particularly following the unprecedented events in our country, Americans have a right to expect additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against this new frightening threat. However, people expect government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this unprecedented responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These years in our history will long be remembered by the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country. As a result, American society faces new and unprecedented challenges. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. As yet, our country has no systematic process or strategy for meeting these challenges.

When we have been faced with unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply and to move to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorism Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9–11 Commission), the Commission on the United Nations Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission following riots that swept American cities in the 1960s.

The important difference in the commission proposed by this bill is that it seeks to act before a crisis in basic freedoms gradually takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long-lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security that most often requires no advance civilian oversight or analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With only existing tools and thinking, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude blockades and other denials of access, or risking the right to privacy using applications of the latest technology with little attention to privacy. The threat of terrorism to our democratic society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are remedial.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and then come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society with open and access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level presidential commission of men and women from the spectrum of disciplines who can help chart the new course that will be required to protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NSF INTERNATIONAL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the 75th anniversary of NSF International. The organization’s wide impact on global public health is worthy of commendation.

The National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) was created in 1944 at the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health. At the time, poor sanitation guidelines jeopardized the health of American diners, and the risk of foodborne illness continually grew. The newly-established NSF quickly set out to develop science-based hygiene and sanitation standards for commercial foodservice equipment to combat the prevalence of foodborne illness. The transparent, consensus-based process used to develop the NSF’s first sanitation standard is the process that is still used to develop all the organization’s public health and safety standards today.

For the last 75 years, NSF has been working diligently to anticipate, recognize, and control potential human health hazards to improve all human health. To reflect their expanded
global mission, the organization changed its name to NSF International in 1990. Currently, NSF International has 70 active public health and safety American National Standards and over 70 active protocols for appliances, foodservice equipment, and drinking water filters, among other products. NSF International's standards have had a profound impact on global public health, and the NSF mark has become highly respected and valued by consumers, regulatory agencies, and manufacturers worldwide.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of NSF International. Over the years, NSF International has proven its commitment to serving public health needs, and I am appreciative of its impactful and reliable work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE JANE HELMAN ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late coach Jane Helman. This year, Jane was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019 for her impressive achievements in coaching.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Jane graduated from William Allen High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania before receiving a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Messiah College. She went on to earn her master's degree from Bloomsburg University. Jane worked as a reading specialist at the Tunkhannock Area School District from 1977 to 2006. In 1997, she joined the faculty at Marywood University where she taught until her death. As an active member and past president of the Keystone State Literacy Association (KSLA), she advocated for the importance of literacy and served as chair of the Conference Advisory Committee and co-chair of Publications.

Jane was the head girls' track and field coach at Tunkhannock Area High School from 1981 to 2008. She coached her team to an incredible 43 individual District II AAA champions and 7 District relay champions. Under her direction, the Tunkhannock Area girls' track and field team won four District II titles during the 1989–1992 seasons. The team held a 69–0 dual meet record during this run. Her 1992 team finished fifth in the PIAA State meet.

It is an honor to recognize Jane on her induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May her story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

BEVERLY LAHAYE—40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. VICKY HARTZLER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mrs. HARTZLER, Madam Speaker, today I want to commend Mrs. Beverly LaHaye of the Concerned Women for America for the work that she has done in inspiring millions of women across America to defend Christian, conservative values throughout our beloved country.

This month marks the 40th anniversary of this great national organization. LaHaye has been a hero of mine and has been an inspiration in my own public service.

She started as a pastor's wife who was serving the church and raising her family, deeply concerned about the direction some in our country wanted to take. After hearing other progressive organizations claiming to speak on behalf of all American women, LaHaye had the courage to stand up and work with other Christian, conservative women across America to join together and pray for the soul of our nation. As more women gathered and joined the group, LaHaye became instrumental in promoting Godly values of life and the value of family in the public arena.

I appreciate everything she has done in paving the way for other conservative women to speak out, to get involved, and to never give up. I wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING “SISTER” RUTH (VANHOOOSE) WEINKAUF’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sister Ruth (Vanhoose) Weinkauf on celebrating her 100th birthday.

Sister Ruth was born September 19, 1919 and was raised in St. John, Illinois. She lived in Winkle and Cambria before relocating to East St. Louis. There she married the love of her life, Loyal Weinkauf. Together they were blessed with one daughter, Sherry.

Ruth and her sister Margaret became the first women to host a 30-minute radio show in Southern Illinois titled "Moments of Comfort." Additionally, in the early 1960s, Ruth and Margaret founded the Glad Tidings Church of St. Claire County, Illinois. Their legacy lives on 75 years later in Life Church, which has recently relocated to Swansea, Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ruth on her long and successful career of preaching, ministering, and teaching. Ruth continues to be an inspiration to all of us and she is deeply loved by many. I wish her and her family continued health and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES E. LIOTT ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete and Northeastern Pennsylvania native, Charles E. Liott. This year, Liott was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019 for his distinct athletic achievements. Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Charlie showed athletic interest from a very young age. He started off playing Little League in 1963 and was part of the Rotary team that won the Hazleton Little League City Series championship. He was also an All-Star shortstop at the Teeners level, leading his team to a state title in 1968.

During his high school career at Hazleton High School, Charlie was a three-year letterman in baseball, basketball, and football. He is one of the only Mountaineer athletes to earn this distinction. During his high school career, he earned an innumerable number of awards for all three sports. He was inducted into the Hazleton High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Charlie attended Temple University where he played four years of NCAA Division I football as a defensive end. He graduated from Temple with a bachelor's degree in business administration, earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Scranton, and received a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic. He received an additional degree in Chiropractic Neurology in 1989. He has been practicing at Liott Back & Neck Care Center in Sarasota, Florida for 37 years.

Charlie is active in his community, coaching girls' and boys' basketball teams. In addition, he also sponsors many little league soccer and baseball teams, as well as adult baseball teams. He has served on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors, sponsoring several children. He has supported many Girls, Inc. functions and raised funds for many years for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) through the South Sarasota Jaycees.

It is an honor to recognize Charlie on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in remembering those мы died in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Together we must honor their sacrifices and pray for the families that have lost loved ones in this tragedy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE JANE HELMAN ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete and Northeastern Pennsylvania native, Charles E. Liott. This year, Liott was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019 for his distinct athletic achievements. Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Charlie showed athletic interest from a very young age. He started off playing Little League in 1963 and was part of the Rotary team that won the Hazleton Little League City Series championship. He was also an All-Star shortstop at the Teeners level, leading his team to a state title in 1968.

During his high school career at Hazleton High School, Charlie was a three-year letterman in baseball, basketball, and football. He is one of the only Mountaineer athletes to earn this distinction. During his high school career, he earned an innumerable number of awards for all three sports. He was inducted into the Hazleton High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Charlie attended Temple University where he played four years of NCAA Division I football as a defensive end. He graduated from Temple with a bachelor's degree in business administration, earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Scranton, and received a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic. He received an additional degree in Chiropractic Neurology in 1989. He has been practicing at Liott Back & Neck Care Center in Sarasota, Florida for 37 years.

Charlie is active in his community, coaching girls' and boys' basketball teams. In addition, he also sponsors many little league soccer and baseball teams, as well as adult baseball teams. He has served on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors, sponsoring several children. He has supported many Girls, Inc. functions and raised funds for many years for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) through the South Sarasota Jaycees.

It is an honor to recognize Charlie on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, everyone remembers where they were and what they were doing—I was here in Washington chairing a Veterans' Affairs Committee
hearing—when a group of cowards hijacked 4 airliners in order to perpetrate the worst act of terrorism in American history.

Nearly 700 New Jerseys lost their lives that day.

No-one remembers the shock, horror and numbing sorrow more, however, than the families and close friends of the victims. Because it was a surprise attack, there was no chance to fight back that day although when Todd Beamer and other passengers learned what happened to the Twin Towers, Todd famously said “let’s roll” and they attacked the terrorists on board the flight that crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

Who can forget the courageous first responders running up the stairs of the burning buildings—with total disregard for their own safety—saving some at the expense of their own lives.

On the morning of 9/11, I got a mere glimpse—I say again, a mere glimpse—into the sense of horror suffered by the victim’s families when I couldn’t reach my own brother Tom—an American Airlines 757 Captain who often piloted Flight 11 from Logan to LA, the flight that crashed into the North Tower.

Evacuated from the Capitol and stuck in traffic within sight of the burning Pentagon, cell phones were all but gridlocked. About noon I got through. He and his flight attendant Sandy were safe but were in anguish because they knew the pilots and crew on board Flight 11.

For 18 years, the families and friends of those who died that day and since have had to endure their loss and a broken heart. Both then—and now eighteen years later—words are inadequate to convey our empathy for those who died and for the victims’ families.

For many, their faith in God has helped them survive and overcome.

THERESA JENKINS

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. McCaul, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Theresa Jenkins. My home state of Texas fosters a remarkable music scene. One such remarkable person I had the privilege knowing was Theresa Jenkins. Theresa was Senior Executive Director of the Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy. In that role and throughout her life, she was a tireless advocate for the music community.

Theresa began her career at Recording Academy in 2004. Soon after, the Recording Academy, best known for the annual GRAMMY Awards, quickly recognized her talent and within a year promoted her to Executive Director of the Texas Chapter. As the organization’s face in Texas, she had a hand in growing the careers of many songwriters, performers, producers and other music professionals in our state.

During her visits to Washington, I identified Theresa as an unwavering advocate for the rights of the terrorists on board after year, she would walk these halls with prominent music makers from Texas and make the case for passage of legislation to help creators, such as the landmark Music Modernization Act we passed last year. Back in Texas, Teresa led groups to the state capital for the Texas Arts Advocacy Day in Austin. No matter where or when I encountered her, Theresa’s commitment, energy, and passion was always evident.

She recently poured that energy and passion into creating a world-class celebration of Texas music at the Texas Chapter’s 25th Anniversary celebration. Sadly, Theresa was unable to attend the festivities in person as in December of last year, she was diagnosed with advanced stage Esophageal cancer and was undergoing treatment at the time. Despite this, Theresa continued to work for the Texas music community, often making calls from her hospital bed.

Though Theresa was unable to attend the celebration, her husband Cris and daughters Jackie and Marina were on hand to hear the gratitude of the entire Texas music community. As the Recording Academy’s Chair Emeritus, Christine Albert stated at the event:

“For 15 years, Theresa has been a constant—the hub of the wheel, the eye of the hurricane, the den mother to our troop, herder of our cats and the quarterback of our team. She has also been a friend, advisor, and cheerleader. Throughout her illness, she has continued to work on this gala as well as the ongoing robust agenda of deadlines and projects that are involved in keeping the Recording Academy’s mission moving forward. At the same time, she has made countless trips to MD Anderson in Houston, undergone chemotherapy, spent precious time with her family and friends, and taken care of her bear hug and spirit, fear leader, Theresa Jenkins.”

Christine’s words were conveyed to Theresa with the prayers and good wishes of a grateful community. Sadly, last month, Theresa passed away. The moving tributes from so many musicians are a testament to the love and respect she earned so well.

I will miss seeing Theresa leading her fellow Texans through the Halls of Congress and the statehouse. However, I know her legacy will live on and that the lives of our music community. As the Recording Academy’s Chair Emeritus, Christine Albert stated at the event:

“...for the United Way. Frank continues to devote his time and energy into his love for sports, serving as Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District 2 Committee Chairperson, interpreter of the Wyoming Valley Basketball Officials Organization, secretary of the Wyoming Valley High School Basketball Conference, president of the Wyoming Valley High School Swimming Conference, president of the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association, member of the PIAs State Board of Directors, vice president and director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center. From 1967 to 1970, he served as supervisor of recreation in the City of Wilkes-Barre. He also served as the athletic director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center from 1970 to 1973.

During his career, Frank has been a dean of students, teacher, and principal at different schools in the area. In addition, he served as the chairman of St. Mary’s Parish Pastoral Council and as chairman of the Police Civil Service Commission in Wilkes-Barre. He is also a volunteer at the Catholic Youth Center and for the United Way. Frank continues to devote his time and energy into his love for sports, serving as Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District 2 Committee Chairperson, interpreter of the Wyoming Valley Basketball Officials Organization, secretary of the Wyoming Valley High School Basketball Conference, president of the Wyoming Valley High School Swimming Conference, president of the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association, member of the PIAs State Board of Directors, vice president and director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center. From 1967 to 1970, he served as supervisor of recreation in the City of Wilkes-Barre. He also served as the athletic director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center from 1970 to 1973.

FRANK MAJIKES
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor referee and Northeastern Pennsylvania native, Frank Majikes. This year, Frank was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his officiating and administrative achievements.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors. Frank is a graduate of St. Mary’s High School, King’s College, and the University of Scranton. He also continued his studies by attending his master’s at Wilkes University. Since 1966, Frank has officiated on the district and state levels. In addition, he has accepted assignments from the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Locally, he was also involved in the administrative side of football from 1967 to 1970. Frank was the assistant athletic advisor for the Catholic Youth Center. From 1969 to 1970, he served as supervisor of recreation in the City of Wilkes-Barre. He also served as the athletic director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center from 1970 to 1973.

During his career, Frank has been a dean of students, teacher, and principal at different schools in the area. In addition, he served as the chairman of St. Mary’s Parish Pastoral Council and as chairman of the Police Civil Service Commission in Wilkes-Barre. He is also a volunteer at the Catholic Youth Center and for the United Way. Frank continues to devote his time and energy into his love for sports, serving as Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District 2 Committee Chairperson, interpreter of the Wyoming Valley Basketball Officials Organization, secretary of the Wyoming Valley High School Basketball Conference, president of the Wyoming Valley High School Swimming Conference, president of the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association, member of the PIAs State Board of Directors, vice president and director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center. From 1967 to 1970, he served as supervisor of recreation in the City of Wilkes-Barre. He also served as the athletic director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center from 1970 to 1973.

It is an honor to recognize Frank on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

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.

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, September 12, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.
MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the sourcing and use of minerals needed for clean energy technologies.
SD-366

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine Holocaust-era insurance claims.
SD-226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.
SD-124

11:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.
SD-192

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for Financial Services and General Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.
SD-124

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold an oversight hearing to examine enforcement of the antitrust laws.
SD-226

3 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine the situation in Southeastern Europe.
SR-222

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine mass violence, extremism, and digital responsibility.
SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine improving American economic competitiveness through water resources infrastructure.
SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States policy in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on Hong Kong, alliances and partnerships, and other issues.
SD-419

1:30 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Anthony F. Godfrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Doug Manchester, of California, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Erin Elizabeth McKee, of California, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Herro Mustafa, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, and Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Romania, all of the Department of State.
S-116

2:15 p.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine gun violence in America, focusing on understanding and reducing the costs of firearm injuries and deaths.
CHOB-210

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office report on tribal access to spectrum, focusing on promoting communications services in Indian country.
SD-628

SEPTEMBER 24

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine competition in digital technology markets, focusing on acquisitions of nascent or potential competitors by digital platforms.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 25

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Mexico and Central America, focusing on ensuring effective policies to address the crisis at the border.
SD-419
Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S5413–S5452*

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2460–2468, and S. Res. 308.

**Measures Reported:**


**Measures Passed:**

- **Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act:** Senate passed S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

- **September 11th National Memorial Trail:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 267, recognizing the September 11th National Memorial Trail as an important trail and greenway all individuals should enjoy in honor of the heroes of September 11th, and the resolution was then agreed to.

**Bowman Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 62 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 273), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

**Feddo Nomination—Cloture:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 92 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 274), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Nordquist Nomination—Cloture:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 275), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 12:15 p.m., on Thursday, September 12, 2019, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; that following disposition of the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, Senate continue consideration of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security, post-cloture; and that at 1:45 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo.

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 90 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 270), Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

By 54 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. EX. 271), Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.
By 81 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. EX. 272), James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Page S5419

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 276), Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Pages S5433–34

By 80 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. EX. 277), Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. Page S5434

By 75 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 278), Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. Pages S5434

By 90 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 279), Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Page S5434

Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. Pages S5435–36

Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island. Page S5435

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor. Page S5443, S5452

Messages from the House: Page S5443

Measures Referred: Page S5443

Executive Communications: Pages S5443–46

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S5446–47

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S5448–49

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Page S5449

Additional Statements: Pages S5442–43

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S5449–50

Record Votes: Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—279) Pages S5418–19, S5432–35

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5452.)

Committee Meetings

(Teams not listed did not meet)

TSA OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine protecting the nation’s transportation systems, focusing on oversight of the Transportation Security Administration, after receiving testimony from Patricia F. S. Cogswell, Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

ENERGY LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy concluded a hearing to examine S. 607, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 1739, to enable projects that will aid in the development and delivery of related instruction associated with apprentice-ship and preapprenticeship programs that are focused on serving the skilled technical workforce at the National Laboratories and certain facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration, S. 1821, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, S. 2094, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide Federal financial assistance to States to implement State energy security plans, S. 2095, to provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threat to, the electric grid, S. 2137, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, S. 2300, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a program to incentivize innovation and to enhance the industrial competitiveness of the United States by developing technologies to reduce emissions of nonpower industrial sectors, S. 2368, to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support licensing and relicensing of certain nuclear facilities and nuclear energy research, demonstration, and development, and S. 2393, to promote a 21st century energy workforce, after receiving testimony from Senators Portman, Shaheen, and Whitehouse; Mark W. Menezes, Under Secretary of Energy; and Anton C. Porter, Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
NOMINATIONS
Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, who was introduced by Representative Clay, and Katherine Andrea Lemos, of California, to be Chairperson and Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen Spencer Marston, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senators Casey and Toomey, Richard Earnest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, who was introduced by Senator Burr, and Anuraag Singhal, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, who was introduced by Senator Rick Scott, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

MAKING OUR PATENT SYSTEM STRONGER
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine innovation in America, focusing on how Congress can make our patent system stronger, after receiving testimony from Tom Cotter, University of Minnesota School of Law, Minneapolis; Bradley N. Ditty, InterDigital Holdings, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware; Dan Lang, Cisco Systems, San Francisco, California; Adam Mosoff, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Arlington, Virginia; Josh Landau, Computer and Communications Industry Association, Washington, D.C.; and Earl Bright II, ExploraMed, Mountain View, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 4279–4294; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 60–61; and H. Res. 552 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3691, to require the TSA to develop a plan to ensure that TSA material disseminated in major airports can be better understood by more people accessing such airports, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–201); and

H.R. 335, to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–202, Part 1).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Torres to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019: The House passed H.R. 205, to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, by a yeas and nays vote of 248 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 521.

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–29, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–200, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole.

Agreed to:

Crist amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–200) that codifies the Well Control Rule and the Production Safety Systems Rule in their original forms; and

Barragán amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–200) that contracts the study entitled “Review and Update of Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Offshore Oil and Gas Operations Inspection Program” to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Rejected:

Gosar amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–200), as modified, that sought to allow the bill to go into effect when DOI, in consultation...
with USFWS, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs (by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 251 noes, Roll No. 520).

H. Res. 548, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 205), (H.R. 1146), and (H.R. 1941) was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act: The House passed H.R. 1941, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, by a yea-and-nay vote of 238 yeas to 139 nays, Roll No. 525.

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–31, modified by the amendment printed in part E of H. Rept. 116–200, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole.

Agreed to:

Lesko amendment (No. 3 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that requires the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Defense, to confirm that this legislation poses no national security risk due to potential increases in dependence on foreign oil;

Langevin amendment (No. 4 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that requires a GAO study on the impacts of offshore drilling on coastal communities and coastal economies;

Rouda amendment (No. 5 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that adds a provision to the bill that would direct the Department of the Interior to make the information from the inspections and payments made into the ‘Ocean Energy Safety Fund’ required by the bill available to the public, including information related to the operators, facilities, amounts paid into the fund, and inspection results;

Levin (MI) amendment (No. 6 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that establishes a moratorium on oil, gas, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the Atlantic Ocean; and

Rouda amendment (No. 8 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that adds a provision to the bill that would require the Department of Commerce to complete an economic impact study/assessment of potential damage related to offshore oil drilling—including tourism, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, boating, transportation, and other waterfront-related and coastal-related business.

Rejected:

McClintock amendment (No. 1 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that sought to allow (but does not mandate) the Pacific OCS planning area to be included in a future five-year leasing plan under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act;

Gosar amendment (No. 2 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that sought to change the name of the bill to the Russian Energy Reliance and U.S. Poverty Act (by a recorded vote of 161 ayes to 272 noes, Roll No. 522); and

Gosar amendment (No. 7 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that sought to allow the bill to go into effect when DOI, in consultation with DOL, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs (by a recorded vote of 179 ayes to 252 noes, Roll No. 523).

H. Res. 548, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 205), (H.R. 1146), and (H.R. 1941) was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, September 12th.

Consensus Calendar: Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (NY) presented to the clerk a motion to place on the Consensus Calendar the bill H.R. 1980, to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women’s history museum, it having accumulated 290 cosponsors.

Senate Referrals: S. 1881 was held at the desk. S. 2035 was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7606.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7633, H7634, H7635, H7635–36, H7637–38, and H7638. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:20 p.m.
Committee Meetings

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES IN EDUCATION TO ASSIST STUDENTS IMPACTED BY GUN VIOLENCE AND OTHER ADVERSITIES

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “The Importance of Trauma-Informed Practices in Education to Assist Students Impacted by Gun Violence and Other Adversities”. Testimony was heard from Nadine Burke Harris, M.D., Surgeon General, California; Ingrida Barker, Associate Superintendent, McDowell County Schools, Welch, West Virginia; Joy Hofmeister, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma Department of Education; and Janice K. Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools.

PROTECTING AND SECURING CHEMICAL FACILITIES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing on “Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks”. Testimony was heard from David Wulf, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATING TO CONNECT AMERICA: IMPROVING THE NATION’S BROADBAND MAPS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Legislating to Connect America: Improving the Nation’s Broadband Maps”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING PRIVATE MARKET EXEMPTIONS AS A BARRIER TO IPOS AND RETAIL INVESTMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets held a hearing entitled “Examining Private Market Exemptions as a Barrier to IPOs and Retail Investment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE MACROECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Examining the Macroeconomic Impacts of a Changing Climate”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVIEWING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S APPROACH TO THE MMIW CRISIS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing entitled “Reviewing the Trump Administration’s Approach to the MMIW Crisis”. Testimony was heard from Jeannie Hovland, Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services; Charles Addington, Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and John Anderson, U.S. Attorney, District of New Mexico, Department of Justice.

THE ADMINISTRATION’S APPARENT REVOCATION OF MEDICAL DEFERRED ACTION FOR CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “The Administration’s Apparent Revocation of Medical Deferred Action for Critically Ill Children”. Testimony was heard from Timothy Robbins, Acting Executive Associate Director, Enforcement and Removal Operation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Daniel Renaud, Associate Director, Field Operations Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a markup on H.R. 4091, the “ARPA–E Reauthorization Act of 2019”; and H.R. 4230, the “Clean Industrial Technology Act”. H.R. 4091 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 4230 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT: BARRIERS TO CARE AND BURDENS ON SMALL MEDICAL PRACTICE

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Utilization Management: Barriers to Care and Burdens on Small Medical Practice”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRICING AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CONGESTION ON AND FINANCING OF AMERICA’S ROADS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Pricing and Technology Strategies to Address Congestion on and Financing of America’s Roads”. Testimony was heard from Oliver Gilbert III, Mayor, Miami Gardens, Florida, and Chairman,
Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, Florida; Travis Brouwer, Assistant Director for Public Affairs, Oregon Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 3636, the “Caring For Our Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 2972, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the communications of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to services available for women veterans, and for other purposes; H.R. 3036, the “Breaking Barriers for Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 2798, the “Building Supportive Networks for Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 2645, the “Newborn Care Improvement Act of 2019”; H.R. 2681, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the availability of prosthetic items for women veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3224, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans; H.R. 2982, the “Women Veterans Health Care Accountability Act”; H.R. 2752, the “VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act”; H.R. 2628, the “VET CARE Act of 2019”; H.R. 2816, the “Vietnam-Era Veterans Hepatitis C Testing Enhancement Act of 2019”; H.R. 1527, the “Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act”; H.R. 1163, the “VA Hiring Enhancement Act”; H.R. 3798, the “Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act”; H.R. 3867, the “Violence Against Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 4096, the “Improving Oversight of Women Veterans’ Care Act of 2019”; and legislation to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Office of Women’s Health, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Teresa Boyd, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN EUROPE
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the state of diversity and inclusion in Europe, focusing on race, rights, and politics, after receiving testimony from Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, and Romeo Franz, both of Germany, Samira Rafaela, Netherlands, and Evin Incir, Sweden, each a Member of the European Parliament, and Alfiaz Vaiya, Brussels, Belgium, all of the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup; Councilor Irene Appiah, Hamburg, Germany; Domenica Ghideli Bidd, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Netherlands; Daniele Obono, Member of French Parliament, Paris; and Olivier Serva, President of the Delegation of French Overseas Territories, Guadeloupe.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, an original bill making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and 302(b) subcommittee allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority allocated to the committee in H. Con. Res. 71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the expected nominations of Ryan D. McCarthy, to be Secretary of the Army, and Barbara M. Barrett, to be Secretary of the Air Force, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine developments in global insurance regulatory and supervisory forums, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House
Committee on Financial Services, Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled “The Future of Identity in Financial Services: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities”, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on Resolution for Investigative Procedures, 8 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings
Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine autocratic abuse of INTERPOL, 10 a.m., 210, Cannon Building.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Thursday, September 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nominations of Michelle Bowman, and Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, at 12:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Thursday, September 12

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 1146—Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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