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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 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.

Most High God, Your steadfast love endures throughout the generations. Your faithfulness sustains the seasons of our earthly pilgrimage. You are worthy of our praise.

Infuse our lawmakers with reverential awe, as they remember You are the one constituent they absolutely must please. Because of You, they live and move and breathe and have their being. Although they may plan, You alone decide what will or will not prevail. May our Senators make You their refuge, their shelter in the time of storms.

And Lord, we thank You for the inspiration of a stupendous World Series.

We pray in Your glorious 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. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 90 seconds.

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

### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today is Halloween. This may sound a little "candy corny," but this Iowan wants to talk about the scary prices of prescription drugs.

Since January, I have joined with bipartisan forces to drive a stake in the

heart of ghoulish price-gouging. Senator WYDEN and I are working to shut down the pranks poisoning the drug supply chain. We need our fellow lawmakers to step up and nail the coffin shut on monstrous drug price increases.

One example that can't masquerade as a next-generation drug is the 500-percent increase for insulin, which helps Americans with diabetes regulate blood sugar. This medicine was discovered 100 years ago, about the time the first horror movie debuted. There is no rhyme or reason for the terrifying price hikes spooking Americans.

The real horror story this Halloween is what is preventing Congress from doing its job. Big Pharma is spending a frightening amount of money to kill drug-pricing reforms.

Let's fix the real injustice haunting the American people, which is sticker shock at the pharmacy counter. Every Senator can be a superhero for Halloween. All you have to do is join us to dig a grave for batty prescription drug prices. Ending Big Pharma's pricing tricks would be a real treat for Americans.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, to lead off, I would certainly be remiss not to congratulate the 2019 World Series champions, the Washington Nationals. This year, our national pastime came down to a dramatic finish. The Nationals and the Astros traded

blows right up until the final innings of game seven.

For the first time ever, the away team won all seven games of the series. And now Stephen Strasburg, Max Scherzer, Anthony Rendon, Juan Soto, and the rest of the 2019 Nationals are bringing a World Series trophy here to the Nation's Capital for the first time since 1924. Back then, of course, the home team was officially the Washington Senators, although still often called the Nationals. That is a distinguished name for a team.

This squad has to be hands-down the most athletic, most resilient, most team-spirited bunch of ballplayers certainly this city has ever had. These remarkable players; their manager, Dave Martinez; the Nationals' front office; and the team's owners, the Lerner family—and I particularly want to mention Ted Lerner, the patriarch, who is 94 years old. Many people thought he might not be around to see the Washington Nationals' first championship, but he was. He is a great owner, a great friend of the city, and it was fun to see him after the game revel in this great accomplishment. They achieved, actually, a small miracle. For a couple of weeks, they gave us something that all of Washington, DC, could unite around—a miracle indeed. It is something we can use around here these days. Congratulations to the champions.

### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, later today we are going to vote on something that should not be controversial: funding for our national defense, for supporting servicemembers and their families, for sustaining American global leadership and strategic edge. This vital priority is not something that can take a back seat to partisan dysfunction.

Our men and women in uniform don't get to go on sabbatical while they wait

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



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for Congress to get its act together. They have to stay vigilant, remain in harm's way, and stay at their posts.

Our military commanders don't get to put critical overseas operations on pause until Washington does its job. Their objectives loom large whether or not we give them a predictable planning foundation.

Russia, China, and Iran will certainly not take a water break if uncertainty leaves our Nation flat-footed. They will keep growing their defense spending and seeking to expand their influence.

I had hoped our Democratic friends would be able to put impeachment aside long enough to at least fund the Department of Defense. We had heard public pronouncements from Speaker PELOSI and my colleague the Democratic leader that they intended to work with us on substantial legislation. If anything qualifies as substantial legislation, it is this. It meets the Pentagon's request for targeted investments in the U.S. military of the future. There are new resources for expanded missile defense capabilities, trauma training, fleet maintenance, and key partnerships with allies around the world.

But, alas, the Democratic leader announced at a press conference Tuesday that he plans to filibuster the annual funding for our Armed Forces. This would put our colleagues across the aisle in quite an unusual position. The same Democrats who have recently rediscovered hawkish-sounding positions on Syria and the Middle East are really going to filibuster \$745 million for the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund, for Iraq and for Syria, and filibuster all the other broader funding of our Armed Forces? Really? The same Democrats whose latest effort to impeach the President hinges on delayed military assistance to Ukraine are themselves—themselves—going to filibuster funding for the exact same program, the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative? Really? It looks like it. The Democratic Party is too busy impeaching President Trump for supposedly slow-walking assistance for Ukraine to fund the exact same program themselves?

These are political gymnastics performed at an Olympic level—at an Olympic level. The core message here is hard to miss: Our Democratic colleagues have a priority list. Picking fights with the White House is priority No. 1. And our men and women in uniform fall somewhat further down.

It does not have to be this way. Even in a time as politically charged as an impeachment inquiry, it doesn't have to be this way. Back in 1998, just days before the Republican House began its impeachment inquiry into President Clinton, the House and the Senate passed a regular appropriations bill.

Then, some weeks later, even after the inquiry was underway, both Chambers were still able to pass more bills to address the fundamental business of funding the government, and President

Clinton signed it into law during the impeachment.

So if Democrats follow through on their threat to filibuster the Defense funding later today, they will frankly be making even the 1998 impeachment period look like a clinic—a clinic—in bipartisan cooperation.

A Democratic filibuster of Defense funding is not the vote the military families and military installations in their home States deserve. It is not the vote our commanders deserve, and it is not the vote our national security deserves.

#### IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on a related matter, speaking of past precedent, I understand this morning House Democrats will finally cast their first impeachment vote on an impeachment resolution, which I understand they are afraid to actually call an impeachment resolution.

As I mentioned yesterday, Democrats' draft does not even come close to restoring the kinds of customary due process rights and protections that past impeachment inquiries included, either for President Trump or for their own Republican colleagues in the minority.

Here is what their resolution announced today. This is basically what it says: "No due process now . . . but maybe some later . . . if we feel like it." It says: "No due process now . . . but maybe some later . . . if we feel like it." This is not a fair way to treat any American, and it certainly is no way to conduct something as grave as an impeachment process, which seeks to overturn the American people's choice in a democratic election.

I hope the House of Representatives sees the light and steps away from their unfair and arbitrary process.

#### TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter, many of us have been concerned for some time about the trajectory of our strategically important NATO ally Turkey under the leadership of President Erdogan.

Despite the hopes of the Obama administration and others that he would be a model of Islamic democracy, Erdogan has instead used democracy to work toward undemocratic ends. Freedom of the press, secularism, and human rights have suffered under his rule, while corruption has flourished. Opposition to Erdogan is growing, but the political space for Turks to express their opposition is shrinking.

Obviously, in recent days, our concerns have centered on Turkey's incursion into northeast Syria. We are angry about the damage Turkey has caused for our local Kurdish partners in Syria.

I have spoken at length about my concerns on Turkey's incursion and my

opposition to withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria, but I believe we need to be guided by our strategic interests, not emotions, as we seek to contain the damage of Turkey's incursion, peel Ankara away from Moscow, and encourage better behavior at home and abroad by Erdogan's government.

I hope we will carefully consider all of our options to achieve these important objectives and carefully examine whether a broad mandatory sanctions bill is really the best solution.

We should think carefully about what specific effect we want sanctions to have, how Turkey will respond to them, and how Russia or others may exploit growing tensions between Washington and Ankara.

Before targeting an economy that is highly integrated with Europe's economy, we should seek a better understanding of the specific economic impact that broad sanctions will have on the global economy, on our European partners, and on American workers and job creators. We should reflect on whether we would be better off working in concert with European allies to shape Turkey's behavior versus abruptly forcing European companies to cut ties with Turkey through the threat of sanctions.

Before using these kinds of policy tools—the kinds we use against Iran and North Korea—against a democracy of 80 million people, we should consider the political impact that blunt sanctions will have on the Turkish people. Will sanctions rally them to our cause or to Erdogan's? Would more targeted sanctions perhaps avoid some of these unintended consequences? These are just some of the critical questions I hope our committees of jurisdiction and the administration are able to examine before we act.

#### THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on one final matter, I have spoken at length in recent weeks about the protests in Hong Kong and the situation in Syria. I would like to close today by recognizing other important developments in the Middle East that, regrettably, haven't received much attention.

Massive protests are underway in Lebanon and Iraq. Millions have taken to the streets to demand more responsive, more transparent, and less sectarian governance, and an end to rampant corruption. By all accounts, these protests are cross-sectarian, directed at an entire class of political leaders who have behaved undemocratically and unethically.

The protests are also directed at Iran. The Islamic Republic has long sought, through proxies like Hezbollah and Iraqi militias, to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and Iraq. Now even Shiite communities that have typically been heavily influenced by Iran are demanding politicians represent their interests instead of Tehran's interests.

Unsurprisingly, the Iranian regime is reportedly involved in violently suppressing peaceful protests in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and, of course, Iran itself. The mullahs are showing the same fear as the Chinese Communist Party. They are afraid of citizens demanding reform and speaking up for basic freedoms. The United States should stand with the protesters.

The administration should use the tools at its disposal to expose corruption and foreign interference in these nations, impose consequences for violent crackdowns on peaceful protests, and work with the Lebanese and Iraqi leaders who are committed to doing right by their people.

AMENDMENT NO. 1121

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of the Senate, in the managers' package of amendments that was announced last night, amendment No. 1121 was misidentified as a Murkowski amendment. It is actually an amendment by Senator WHITEHOUSE that Senator MURKOWSKI cosponsored.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2755

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2755) to require a report on the plan to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

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.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of H.R. 3055, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Shelby amendment No. 948, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Shelby) amendment No. 950, to make a technical correction.

AMENDMENT NOS. 953, 1023, 1037, 1088, AS MODIFIED, 1099, 1121, 1133, 1143, 1149, 1161, 1163, 1217, 1223, 1224, 951, 1077, 1094, 1129, 1146, 1150, 1234, 1025, 1079, 1081, 1151, 1159, 1160, 1162, 1182, 1193, 1199, 1211, 1215, 1220, 1227, 956, 1002, 1005, 1010, 1061, 1062, 1114, 1130, 1214, AND 1235 EN BLOC TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the order of yesterday, the 45 amendments listed in the order are considered and agreed to en bloc and the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The amendments (Nos. 953, 1023, 1037, 1088 As Modified, 1099, 1121, 1133, 1143, 1149, 1161, 1163, 1217, 1223, 1224, 951, 1077, 1094, 1129, 1146, 1150, 1234, 1025, 1079, 1081, 1151, 1159, 1160, 1162, 1182, 1193, 1199, 1211, 1215, 1220, 1227, 956, 1002, 1005, 1010, 1061, 1062, 1114, 1130, 1214, 1235) to Amendment No. 948 were agreed to en bloc as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 953

(Purpose: To provide for the availability of funds for Agricultural Research Service research facilities to provide public access)

On page 129, line 4, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading may be used to provide public access to a river at a research facility of the Agricultural Research Service.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1023

(Purpose: To amend provisions relating to the rental assistance program of the Rural Housing Service)

On page 155, line 10, insert after “one-year period:” the following: “*Provided further*, that upon request by an owner of a project financed by an existing loan under section 514 or 515 of the Act, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance agreement for a period of 20 years or until the term of such loan has expired, subject to annual appropriations:”.

On page 156, line 4, strike “third proviso” and insert “fourth proviso”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1037

(Purpose: To require a study on the economic and environmental impacts of importing orchids in growing media)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report that describes the economic and environmental impacts of importing orchids in growing media.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

- (1) a description of—
  - (A) the economic impact of importing orchids in growing media on a State-by-State basis, with data collected from local growers; and
  - (B) any incidents of pests detected on orchids imported with growing media; and
- (2) an analysis with respect to the additional resources that are necessary to pre-

vent and mitigate the introduction of pests resulting from importing orchids in growing media.

AMENDMENT NO. 1088, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide appropriations for centers of excellence at 1890 Institutions, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out section 1673(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926(d)).

(b) The amount made available under the heading “OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY” in title I for necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary shall be reduced by \$3,000,000, which shall be derived by reducing the amount provided under that heading for Departmental Administration by \$3,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1099

(Purpose: To increase the appropriation for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available under the heading “EXTENSION ACTIVITIES” under the heading “NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be increased by \$5,000,000, which shall be used by increasing by that amount the amount specified for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network in the table titled “National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities” in the report accompanying this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer under the heading “OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$5,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1121

(Purpose: To set aside funding for the ocean agriculture working group)

On page 122, line 19, insert “: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be made available to the Office of the Secretary to carry out the duties of the working group established under section 770 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6; 133 Stat. 89)” before the period at the end.

AMENDMENT NO. 1133

(Purpose: To provide funding for the new beginning for Tribal students program, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222e).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$5,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1143

(Purpose: To increase the appropriation for rural decentralized water systems)

On page 164, line 21, strike “\$1,500,000” and insert “\$3,000,000”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1149

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize maintenance and staff needs relating to assistance provided by the Rural Housing Service)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7\_\_\_\_. In providing assistance under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) using amounts made available under title III, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prioritize the maintenance needs for rural housing facilities and staff needs, which shall include prioritizing—

- (1) oversight of aging rental housing program properties with capital repair needs;
- (2) the needs of staff overseeing the Rural Housing Service and field staff conducting housing inspections; and
- (3) enforcement against property owners when those owners fail to make necessary repairs.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1161

(Purpose: To increase the appropriation for the distance learning and telemedicine program, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7\_\_\_\_. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under this Act to the Rural Utilities Service under the heading “DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM” for grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas shall be increased by \$1,000,000.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1163

(Purpose: To provide funding for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

(b) The amount made available under the heading “OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY” in title I for necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary shall be reduced by \$3,000,000, which shall be derived by reducing the amount provided under that heading for Departmental Administration by \$3,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1217

(Purpose: To provide funding for States impacted by Eastern equine encephalitis, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7\_\_\_\_. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE” in title I shall be increased by \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be for surveillance, testing, prevention, and research relating to Eastern equine encephalitis in impacted States.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture under the heading “OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER” shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1223

(Purpose: To provide funding for the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$6,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1224

(Purpose: To provide funding for pilot projects to address food insecurity, with an offset)

On page 223, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 7\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out section 30 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036d).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$2,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 951

(Purpose: To require the Attorney General to report to Congress on, and establish a deadline for, the implementation of the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that—

- (1) details the progress of the implementation of the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-401; 132 Stat. 5336) and the amendments made by that Act; and
- (2) establishes a deadline for full implementation of that Act and the amendments made by that Act, which shall be not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1077

(Purpose: To make \$10,000,000 available for the SelectUSA program)

On page 5, line 19, insert “*Provided further*, That, of the amounts provided under this heading, up to \$10,000,000 shall be available for the SelectUSA program:” after “activities:”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1094

(Purpose: To require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration submit to Congress a report on existing supercomputing capacity and needs of the Administration)

On page 17, line 7, before the period, insert the following: “*Provided further*, That the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration submit to Congress a report on existing supercomputing capacity and needs of the Administration and on the incremental improvement to operational weather forecasts that would result from a significant investment in additional compute capacity”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1129

(Purpose: To require that the Secretary of Commerce use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Bureau of Industry and Security for operations and administration to publish and submit to Congress a report on the findings of the investigation into the effect on national security of imports of automobiles and automotive parts)

At the appropriate place in title I of division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Not later than one day after the date of the enactment of this Act, using amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title for the Bureau of Industry and Security for operations and administration, the Secretary of Commerce shall—

- (1) publish in the Federal Register the report on the findings of the investigation into the effect on national security of imports of automobiles and automotive parts that the Secretary initiated on May 23, 2018, under section 232(b) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862(b)), as required under paragraph (3)(B) of that section; and
- (2) submit to Congress any portion of the report that contains classified information, which may be viewed only by Members of Congress and their staff with appropriate security clearances.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1146

(Purpose: To require the Drug Enforcement Administration to continue to establish and utilize data collection and sharing agreements in order to properly estimate rates of overdose deaths and overall public health impact related to certain controlled substances, for the purpose of determining diversion and establishing annual opioid production quotas)

On page 38, line 18, strike “expenses” and insert the following: “expenses: *Provided*, That, using amounts made available under this heading, the Drug Enforcement Administration shall continue to establish and utilize data collection and sharing agreements with other Federal agencies and continue to consider other sources of information to properly assess the estimated rates of overdose deaths and abuse and the overall public health impact regarding covered controlled substances as required under section 306(i) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 826(i)), and shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act regarding the establishment and utilization of such data collection and sharing agreements”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1150

(Purpose: To increase funding for the COPS Office Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces grant program)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount made available under the heading “COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)” under the heading “COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” in this title shall be increased by \$1,000,000, which shall be used by increasing by that amount the amount specified in paragraph (3) under such headings for competitive grants to State law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount made available for necessary expenses for information sharing technology under the heading “JUSTICE

INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)" under the heading "GENERAL ADMINISTRATION" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" in this title shall be decreased by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1234

(Purpose: To require the Attorney General to submit a report on the enforcement of animal welfare laws)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_\_. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate detailing the efforts of the Department of Justice to combat and enforce animal fighting and animal welfare statutes, which shall include—

(1) a break down of the number of personnel dedicated to animal welfare crimes on a full-time basis, including their respective departmental component;

(2) a list of all cases involving animal welfare crimes that the Department of Justice has prosecuted since 2014;

(3) a list of investigations that were referred to the Department of Justice that have been delayed or declined to be prosecuted by the Department of Justice and the reason for any deferral or declination; and

(4) a qualitative description of how the Department of Justice coordinates the efforts of the Department with other governmental partners to ensure proper enforcement of animal welfare laws.

AMENDMENT NO. 1025

(Purpose: To require a Bureau of Indian Affairs report analyzing the facilities investments required to improve direct service and tribally operated detention and public safety facilities in Indian country)

On page 253, line 2, strike "costs:" and insert the following: "costs: *Provided further*, That not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report describing the facilities investments required to improve the direct service and tribally operated detention and public safety facilities in Indian country that are in poor condition, including associated cost estimates:".

AMENDMENT NO. 1079

(Purpose: To prohibit bogus bonus payments to contractors)

In division C, insert after section 429 the following:

SEC. 430. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or for performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program and unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with 16.401(e)(2) of the FAR.

AMENDMENT NO. 1081

(Purpose: To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress a report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule)

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

shall submit to Congress and post on the website of the Office of Management and Budget a report on each project funded by an agency that is appropriated funds under this division—

(1) that is more than 5 years behind schedule; or

(2) for which the amount spent on the project is not less than \$1,000,000,000 more than the original cost estimate for the project.

(b) Each report submitted and posted under subsection (a) shall include, for each project included in the report—

(1) a brief description of the project, including—

(A) the purpose of the project;

(B) each location in which the project is carried out;

(C) the year in which the project was initiated;

(D) the Federal share of the total cost of the project; and

(E) each primary contractor, subcontractor, grant recipient, and subgrantee recipient of the project;

(2) an explanation of any change to the original scope of the project, including by the addition or narrowing of the initial requirements of the project;

(3) the original expected date for completion of the project;

(4) the current expected date for completion of the project;

(5) the original cost estimate for the project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(6) the current cost estimate for the project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(7) an explanation for a delay in completion or increase in the original cost estimate for the project; and

(8) the amount of and rationale for any award, incentive fee, or other type of bonus, if any, awarded for the project.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151

(Purpose: To increase funding for the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities on the United States-Mexico Border, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title IV of division C, insert the following:

UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER PROGRAM

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, funds made available under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be reduced by \$5,489,000, which shall be reduced from amounts for Operations and Administration as described in the report accompanying this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount made available under the heading "STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by \$5,489,000.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount made available under paragraph (2) under the heading "STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by \$5,489,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1159

(Purpose: To provide for a report on certain programs of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

On page 346, line 14, strike the period and insert "": *Provided*, That, not later than 120

days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes the efforts of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support memory and a range of educational programs relating to the Holocaust, including the collection and usage of historical documentation, such as survivor testimony."

AMENDMENT NO. 1160

(Purpose: To set aside funds for certain Lake Tahoe restoration activities)

On page 230, line 18, insert " ", of which \$4,088,000 shall be for activities under section 5(d)(2) of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106-506; 114 Stat. 2353; 130 Stat. 1786)" after "2021".

AMENDMENT NO. 1162

(Purpose: To require a study of law enforcement staffing needs of Indian Tribes)

At the end of title I of division C, add the following:

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_. The Bureau of Indian Affairs shall conduct a study to identify the law enforcement staffing needs of Indian Tribes, which shall include—

(1) a detailed analysis, by Indian Tribe, of law enforcement hiring impediments and challenges;

(2) a strategy on how to recruit and train law enforcement officers and fill law enforcement vacancies; and

(3) a proposed strategy that could be used to address the impediments and challenges identified in paragraph (1).

AMENDMENT NO. 1182

(Purpose: To increase money appropriated for Geographic Programs, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title IV of division C, insert the following:

GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount made available for Geographic Programs under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by 3 percent, and the amount made available for each Geographic Program described in the report accompanying this Act shall be increased by 3 percent.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount authorized to be transferred under the fourth paragraph under the heading "ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by the additional amount made available for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under subsection (a).

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, funds made available under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II for operations and administration, as specified in the report accompanying this Act, shall be reduced by an amount equal to the total amount additionally appropriated for Geographic Programs under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 1193

(Purpose: To make available funds for the Smithsonian Latino Center)

On page 338, line 22, after the semicolon insert the following: "": *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated herein, not less than \$4,292,000 shall be made available for the

Smithsonian Latino Center and related initiative.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1199

(Purpose: To set aside funds for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program)

On page 238, line 5, strike the period and insert the following “: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,576,000 shall be made available for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program and similarly managed rivers.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1211

(Purpose: To set aside funds for the 400 Years of African-American History Commission)

On page 238, line 5, strike the period and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding sections 7(b), 8, and 9 of the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act (36 U.S.C. note prec. 101; Public Law 115–102), of the amount made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be provided to the 400 Years of African-American History Commission for expenditure on activities authorized by that Act through July 1, 2021.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1215

(Purpose: To require a report on the status of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative)

On page 311, line 2, insert “*Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the Forest Service shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report detailing the status of efforts to accelerate forest ecosystem restoration under the Four Forest Restoration Initiative:” after “7303(f):”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1220

(Purpose: To make available funds for the Women’s History Initiative)

On page 338, line 22, at the appropriate place insert the following: “*Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated herein, not less than \$3,700,000 shall be made available for the Women’s History Initiative.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1227

(Purpose: To provide for a Government Accountability Office study on outdoor recreation)

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

**SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_ . GAO STUDY ON OUTDOOR RECREATION.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:  
(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means—

- (A) the Department of Agriculture;
- (B) the Department of the Interior;
- (C) the Corps of Engineers;
- (D) the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

(E) the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term “outdoor recreation” means all recreational activities undertaken for pleasure that—

- (A) generally involve some level of intentional physical exertion; and
- (B) occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

(b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that—

- (1) identifies each program carried out by a covered agency that directly impacts the outdoor recreation sector, including each program that affects the management and conservation of, and access to, the land, waters, and natural resources of the United States; and

(2) describes, for each program identified under paragraph (1), the spending level for that program during each of the 20 fiscal years preceding the year in which the report is submitted.

(c) REQUIRED COORDINATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall coordinate with the outdoor recreation industry, nongovernmental organizations, the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, and other interested stakeholders.

(d) REPORT.—Not later 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (b).

AMENDMENT NO. 956

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide Congress with recommendations and associated costs for future research on rental payment insurance)

At the appropriate place in title II of division D, insert the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ . The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall include in the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the President submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for fiscal year 2021, recommendations and any associated costs for future research on insurance models designed to reduce evictions or expand access to rental opportunities for tenants, such as rental payment insurance.

AMENDMENT NO. 1002

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)  
On page 489, line 17, strike “\$2,761,00,000” and insert “\$2,761,000,000”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1005

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress)

At the appropriate place in title I of division D, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, as part of ongoing efforts to review regulations regarding the emergency medical equipment carried by passenger airlines, should continue to prioritize the demands of our nation’s growing opioid epidemic and take timely action to issue additional guidance to air carriers to ensure the expeditious inclusion of opioid antagonists in emergency medical kits.

AMENDMENT NO. 1010

(Purpose: To ensure funding for the FAA remote tower pilot program)

On page 383, line 10, insert the following after “Budget” : “*Provided further*, That of the amounts made available for Enterprise, Concept Development, Human Factors, and Demonstration, not less than \$9,500,000 shall be available for the remote tower pilot program as authorized by section 161 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 47104 note)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1061

(Purpose: To require a report on engagement with local interests relating to intelligent transportation systems technologies and smart cities solutions)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and

Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on efforts by the Department of Transportation to engage with local communities, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional transportation commissions on advancing data and intelligent transportation systems technologies and other smart cities solutions.

AMENDMENT NO. 1062

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to terminate the ITS program advisory committee)

At the appropriate place in title II of Division D, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to terminate the Intelligent Transportation System Program Advisory Committee established under section 5305(h) of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 512 note; Public Law 109–59).

AMENDMENT NO. 1114

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 482, line 10, strike the period and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this paragraph, not less than \$1,000,000 shall be available to support utilization, outreach, and capacity building with tribes and tribal housing organization for the Tribal HUD-VASH program.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1130

(Purpose: To provide a sense of Congress relating to preserving manufactured home communities)

At the appropriate place in title II of division D, insert the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ . It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) more than 17,000,000 people live in manufactured homes and benefit from high-quality affordable homes which provide stability;

(2) owners of manufactured homes have disproportionately low-income households, and in 2013, the median annual household income for living in manufactured housing was \$28,400;

(3) approximately 75 percent of manufactured home households earn less than \$50,000 per year;

(4) more than 10 percent of veterans in the United States live in manufactured homes;

(5) in late 1990, manufactured housing represented ⅓ of the new affordable housing produced in the United States and remains a significant source of unsubsidized affordable housing in the United States;

(6) in 2015, the average cost per square foot for a new manufactured home was 48 dollars, less than half of the cost per square foot for a new-site built, structure-only home, which was \$101;

(7) in 2009, 43 percent of all new homes that sold for less than \$150,000 were manufactured homes;

(8) manufactured homes account for 23 percent of new home sales under \$200,000;

(9) more than 50,000 manufactured home communities, also referred to as “mobile home parks”, exist throughout the United States;

(10) more than 2,900,000 manufactured homes are placed in manufactured home communities;

(11) manufactured home communities provide critical affordable housing, but receive very little Federal, State, or local funds to subsidize the cost of manufactured homes;

(12) manufactured home owners in such communities may own the home, but they do not own the land under the home, which leaves the home owners vulnerable to rent increases, arbitrary rule enforcement, and in the case of a manufactured home community owner converting the land to some other use, community closure;

(13) an eviction or closure of a manufactured home community is very disruptive to a resident who may be unable to pay the thousands of dollars it takes to move the manufactured home or find a new location for the manufactured home;

(14) in an effort to preserve a crucial source of affordable housing within the past two decades, a national network of housing providers has helped residents purchase and own the land under the manufactured home community, and manage the manufactured home community;

(15) nationwide, there are more than 1,000 stable, permanent ownership cooperatives or nonprofit-owned developments in more than a dozen States;

(16) members of manufactured home communities continue to own such homes individually, own an equal share of the land beneath the entire manufactured home community, participate in the governing of the community, and elect a board of directors who make major decisions within the manufactured home community by a democratic vote;

(17) in New Hampshire, more than 30 percent of manufactured home communities are owned by residents;

(18) resident-owned cooperatives and nonprofit owned communities have also flourished in Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington, Oregon, and Minnesota;

(19) nationwide, only 2 percent of all manufactured home communities are resident or nonprofit-owned;

(20) when the owner of a manufactured home community or his or her heirs sell the community to the highest bidder, it can result in displacement for dozens and sometimes hundreds of families; and

(21) Congress should endeavor to protect residents of manufactured home communities by encouraging the owners of those properties to sell them to nonprofit organizations or to the residents themselves to own cooperatively.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1214

(Purpose: To provide for a veterans pilot training competitive grant program)

At the appropriate place under the heading "OPERATIONS" under the heading "FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION" in title I of division D, insert the following: "Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be used for a veterans pilot training competitive grant program."

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1235

(Purpose: To provide additional funding for the family unification program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development)

At the appropriate place in paragraph (2) under the heading "TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE" under the heading "PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING" in title II of division D, insert the following: "the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act,".

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

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

The majority whip is recognized.

H.R. 3055

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last weekend, I had the privilege of attend-

ing the welcome-home ceremony for 112 members of the South Dakota National Guard. These men and women, who serve in the 147th Forward Support Company or the Bravo Battery of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, were deployed to Europe as part of Atlantic Resolve, a partnership with our allies in Eastern and Central Europe developed in response to Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014.

The Atlantic Resolve allows U.S. and allied forces to build strong working relationships and to hone their ability to conduct operations. Members of Bravo Battery and the 147th Forward Support Company spent most of the year in Europe working with partner forces. They participated in two multinational exercises and brought artillery to Germany and Hungary.

These soldiers finally got home last weekend, but they didn't leave Atlantic Resolve without South Dakota support. Other members of the 147th Forward Support Company and Alpha Battery of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion head for Europe in September. Other South Dakota-based military members—airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base—also deployed abroad recently.

Four B-1 bombers from the 34th and 37th Bomb Squadrons at Ellsworth made a flying trip to Saudi Arabia late this month to support the U.S. military presence there. The bombers flew directly from South Dakota to Saudi Arabia, refueling six times in midair, once again demonstrating the incredible capability of this aircraft and of our Ellsworth airmen.

Atlantic Resolve, the B-1 mission, the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi during a raid conducted by U.S. troops—they are all a reminder of the vital work that our military members are doing.

A lot of military missions don't make a big splash in the news. We don't hear a lot about everything that our men and women are doing on a daily basis. We don't hear details of all the operations: the joint exercises with our allies, the countless training evolutions, the never-ending aircraft and vehicle maintenance, the hours watching radar systems for contacts, the endless logistical work to support troops in the field, the painstaking weeks and months of intelligence gathering for a single mission.

Every hour of every day, members of the U.S. military are on duty working to keep the peace and to ensure the security of our Nation. As Members of Congress, we have no greater obligation than to ensure that our troops have the resources they need. We owe it to the men and women who get up each day willing to lay down their lives for us, and we owe it to every man, woman, and child we represent because the safety of our country depends upon the strength of our military.

Ensuring that our troops have the resources they need obviously means ensuring that they have adequate fund-

ing, but it also means getting that funding to them in a timely fashion. It means passing regular order appropriations bills instead of forcing our military to rely on temporary funding measures that leave the military in doubt about funding levels and unable to start important new projects.

Getting military funding approved in a timely manner is a priority for me and for a lot of my colleagues here in the Senate. Chairman SHELBY, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, worked hard this year to ensure that we could bring the Defense appropriations bill to the floor in a timely fashion, but Senate Democrats have so far blocked Senate consideration of this important legislation. Their refusal to allow the Senate to move forward on funding has left the military in limbo, unable to fully fund 2020 priorities and to move ahead on key projects for the future.

Later today, Democrats will have another chance to move forward with the Defense appropriations bill and to get our military the resources that it needs. I am hoping that they will have a change of heart and decide that funding our military is more important than the partisan games they have been playing. Our military members are waiting on that funding. Their ability to do their jobs is being jeopardized by Democrats' continued blockade of Defense appropriations.

We live in peace and safety every single day because of the men and women of the U.S. military. It is not a new sentiment, but it bears repeating because it is too easy to forget that we would not be enjoying the freedoms and benefits that we enjoy without the constant vigilance of our men and women in uniform. The least—the very least—that we can do in return is to make sure that they have every resource they need to do their jobs and to come home safely.

I strongly urge my Democratic colleagues to vote yes on moving forward with the Defense appropriations bill later today and to send a loud and clear message to the American military that we are going to ensure here in the Congress that you have the resources, the training, the weapons systems, the equipment, and everything that you need to keep Americans safe each and every single day.

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

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

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1143 CORRECTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, for the information of the Senate, in the managers' package of amendments that was just agreed to, amendment No. 1143 was misidentified as a Capito

amendment. It is actually an amendment by Senator JONES that Senator CAPITO cosponsored.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of my amendment with the Senator from Alabama, Mr. JONES, to this domestic spending package.

Our amendment will permanently block an impending \$1.2 billion cut to Federal investments and Federal transportation. Without our legislative action to block this cut, public transit agencies across the country will suffer a 12-percent across-the-board cut. These cuts will be devastating to all of our communities.

Transit funds in my home State in Arizona are critically important to our quickly growing communities. Maricopa County was the fastest growing county in the United States last year, and cities such as Flagstaff and Tucson are also attracting more jobs and more families. Our State continues to have to meet the demands of our expanding cities and towns, and that is true from Phoenix to Flagstaff and all throughout the State.

Our amendment would block more than \$15.4 million in cuts to Arizona transit agencies. These cuts could result in drastically reduced services, including those for low-income individuals and individuals with disabilities, and reduce funds necessary to modernize bus and rail fleets, as well as slow construction of news stations and shelters.

A broad coalition of over 30 associations—including the American Public Transportation Association, the Associated General Contractors of America, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—support our efforts and this amendment to block these cuts.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of a letter from the 32 national associations urging Congress to support our amendment.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OCTOBER 22, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD C. SHELBY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. SUSAN M. COLLINS,  
*Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
*Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. JACK REED,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHELBY, VICE CHAIRMAN LEAHY, CHAIRMAN COLLINS, AND RANKING MEMBER REED: We greatly appreciate your

bipartisan efforts to advance S. 2520, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act, 2020. Although S. 2520 includes many critical investments for public transportation, it reduces total funding for public transportation by \$457 million compared to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 enacted levels. As you continue working together on the bill, we strongly urge you to increase investment in public transportation and permanently block the impending \$1.2 billion across-the-board cut to transit formula funds.

Infrastructure investment is critical for our nation's economic growth and now is the time to invest more, not less, in public transportation. Increased investment will provide the necessary resources to begin to address the more than \$90 billion state-of-good-repair backlog in our nation's transit systems and meet the mobility demands of growing communities.

In addition, we urge you to include a provision in the bill permanently blocking the impending 12 percent across-the-board cut to each public transit agency throughout the country. We greatly appreciate your leadership in ensuring that the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-59, Division A) included a provision temporarily preventing this cut, but further and immediate action is needed to ensure that this harmful provision does not take effect in FY 2020.

Americans ride public transportation 10 billion times a year, and every trip meets a need or provides an opportunity. It gets people to work, their doctors, local businesses, and schools. It is a lifeline that connects communities. We urge you to support increased investment in public transportation for critical projects in small, medium, and large communities across the nation.

In summary, as you continue working together on the Senate THUD Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to increase investment in public transportation and permanently block the impending \$1.2 billion across-the-board cut to transit formula funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Public Transportation Association, Amalgamated Transit Union; American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; American Concrete Pipe Association; American Council of Engineering Companies; American Planning Association; American Road & Transportation Builders Association; American Society of Civil Engineers; Associated General Contractors of America; Association of Equipment Manufacturers; Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations; The Bus Coalition; Community Transportation Association of America; Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute; The Intelligent Transportation Society of America; International Union of Operating Engineers; National Asphalt Pavement Association.

National Association of City Transportation Officials; National Association of Counties; National Association of Regional Councils; National League of Cities; National Precast Concrete Association; National Ready Mixed Concrete Association; Natural Resources Defense Council; National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association; Portland Cement Association; Railway Supply Institute; Transport Workers Union; Transportation for America; Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO; United States Chamber of Commerce; The United States Conference of Mayors.

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to join Senator JONES from Alabama and me in supporting this important bipartisan amendment.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today we come to an inflection point in the appropriations process this year. Leader MCCONNELL has scheduled a vote on the Defense appropriations bill, which comes with a certain irony. A bill that is supposed to provide resources for our troops and their families actually steals money from them and puts it toward a border wall that President Trump promised Mexico would pay for.

Democrats will not vote to proceed to a bill that steals money from our troops and their families. Republicans know it is a nonstarter. Yet Leader MCCONNELL has scheduled a show vote this afternoon to demonstrate something that everyone already knows: There is nowhere close to the necessary votes in the Senate for President Trump's border wall and, of course, there is not in the House. So this is just a show vote.

Leader MCCONNELL, a few weeks ago, got on the floor and railed against show votes. He said: I only want to put things on the floor that are going to pass. But we all know this ain't passing. I understand memories in politics can be short, but the exercise we will go through today is absurd, even by those low standards.

Senate Republicans, by pursuing a partisan process, by doing President Trump's bidding on the wall—they know he is wrong, most of them. They are just so afraid of him they just say "Yes, sir" whenever he proposes an absurd idea. They repeat the same failed strategy that led to the longest shutdown in our Nation's history. I warned Leader MCCONNELL and our Republican friends that if they continue down this path, they will lead us straight to another government shutdown, and their party and President Trump will shoulder the responsibility. The last time, they had to retreat from that position after the longest shutdown in history with their tails between their legs. Isn't history teaching them anything? We know it will not teach President Trump much, but we would hope the Republicans in the Senate would have more sense.

Instead of standing up and defending their own position that they want the money for the wall—however indefensible in my judgment—Senate Republicans have resorted to bogus attacks against Democrats. Senate Republicans accuse Democrats of delaying a pay raise for our troops, even though, first, the pay raise is strongly bipartisan, and, more important, the standing law of the land dictates it will go into effect regardless of whether we pass the Defense appropriations.

Our Republican friends are so desperate to divert attention from their



holding up these bills for President Trump's wall that they come up with completely false arguments, such as the statement that if we don't pass this, the troops will not get a pay raise.

Yesterday, Leader MCCONNELL and President Trump repeated a slightly less specific but even more outrageous charge, claiming that Democrats are not supporting the fight against ISIS due to the disagreement on appropriations. Hello. Who was it who abandoned our Kurdish friends who led the fight against ISIS? Not the Democrats in the Senate, not even the Republicans in the Senate—it was President Trump.

President Trump's reckless decision to greenlight President Erdogan's invasion of northern Syria left hundreds of hardened ISIS fighters out of jail and, according to most experts, set a course for a likely resurgence of ISIS. But instead of blaming President Trump—although some of them did early on—they are trying to switch the blame. It is a typical tactic that Leader MCCONNELL is using with more and more regularity, but like his previous attempts, it fails.

We were briefed yesterday by senior administration officials, and they acknowledged the fallout in the wake of the President's decision and the need to pick up the pieces of what was their strategy to defeat ISIS.

The majority leader and I have been working together on legislation requiring specific plans and reports from the administration on the ISIS threat. I hope it will receive some action on the floor soon. Let's cut the nonsense that Democrats don't support the troops or the fight against ISIS. It is not true. It is laughable, and it ain't going to stick. So instead of this bunk, Leader MCCONNELL and my Republican friends, roll up your sleeves and work with us to get something done.

Democrats and Republicans have been working through a package of appropriations bills, as is clear in the bills we are voting on. Where there is agreement, we can move forward. This week has shown the Senate can efficiently work through these bills, and we have a bipartisan buy-in. That is how Democrats want to proceed on the remainder of the bills.

Republican friends, work with us as you did on these four bills to come up with bipartisan bills, and we can get them done.

#### IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, on impeachment, at least a dozen witnesses have testified in Congress as part of the House's impeachment inquiry. The facts that are already in the public record are troubling and require further investigation.

The Founders greatly feared foreign interference in our elections. Here, we have a President who allegedly used the powers of his office to pressure or coerce a foreign leader to investigate a domestic political rival. The matter at hand is serious; both parties must treat it as such. But already some of our Re-

publican colleagues have tried to kick up as much dust as possible to distract or detract from the facts of the case because they know the reality will be damaging to the President if these facts prove to be true.

Last week, roughly 40 Republicans stormed the secure facility in the Capitol in a fit of staged protest, even though one-third of them were already allowed to participate in the hearings that were taking place.

In the Senate, my colleague Senator GRAHAM, a veteran of the House impeachment process, put together a resolution of trumped-up charges that the House process was unfair, all of which have been thoroughly debunked as misleading or baseless. Again, it is an attempt by our Republican friends to do Donald Trump's bidding no matter how false, reckless, or harmful that bidding is.

Meanwhile, the White House and its allies in the Congress and the media have leveled shameful attacks against the witnesses in the House inquiry, questioning the loyalties of a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and Purple Heart recipient and calling the whistleblower a treasonous spy. That is despicable.

Worse still, reports suggest that Republicans on the House committee and members of their staffs are conducting a vicious campaign to deliberately disclose or cause to be disclosed the identity of the whistleblower, placing that courageous individual's safety and that of his or her family in jeopardy.

We are supposed to be engaging with the facts of the case on the merits. We have a solemn constitutional duty to do so. Even the President himself has said he would "rather go into the details of the case rather than the process."

My Republican friends in Congress should stick to the facts, quit the partisan theatrics, quit the politics of blame, and quit trying to harm the very serious patriots whose lives and safety might be in danger. This is a time to put country over party and examine the facts—only the facts.

#### PENSIONS

Madam President, finally, on pensions, this week, Murray Energy, which employed over 5,000 people, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, putting thousands of hard-working Americans at risk of losing their pensions. Forty percent of Murray's employees are represented by either the United Mine Workers or the Seafarers International Union. Murray faces over \$8 billion in pension obligations, of which over \$2 billion are unfunded and under threat. This is only the latest example of the danger facing millions of Americans with pensions from construction, mining, truck driving, bakeries, and other industries.

These workers did nothing wrong. They saved up little by little, week by week, expecting to retire with security and dignity, but their pension plans are sadly now at risk of becoming insol-

vent because of circumstances totally outside of their control.

The time has come for Congress to bring relief to these working families. Members on both sides of the aisle have been working on legislation that would provide relief to these underfunded pensions. Just 2 months ago, the House passed the Butch Lewis Act, which I proudly support and which would provide immediate relief to critical and declining pension plans, but Leader MCCONNELL has inexplicably refused to take action on this bipartisan legislation—another tombstone in his legislative graveyard.

Leader MCCONNELL and the Republican majority are turning their backs on hard-working middle-class Americans who need their pensions. They could be robbed of them through no fault of their own. I hope the news this week magnifies the consequences of Republican inaction.

President Trump has claimed to be a champion for American workers, but under his Presidency, working Americans have slipped further and further behind. Now, for millions of hard-working Americans, a secure retirement is also at risk. If the President were truly a champion for working Americans, now is the time for him to show some leadership by urging Leader MCCONNELL and his Republicans in the Senate to work with Democrats to protect these pension plans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I have a number of things I want to talk about today. On Monday of this week, we lost a fine lady in Kay Hagan. It is very difficult for me to put into words my admiration for the Senator from North Carolina, but the fact is, Kay was the kind of person who, the first time you met her, had the ability to calm the situation down.

When she was running in 2008, I went to North Carolina, and she had an event at a farm. I think it was a hog operation, if my memory serves me correctly. I had a chance to meet her for the first time. She was somebody who you knew, if she were able to get into this body, would be successful.

Well, in 2008, she won that election. She came here, and she made a difference. She made a difference for working families, small businesses, and family farm agriculture.

I just want to express my condolences to her husband Chip, her kids and grandkids, and let them know she was very loved by all in this body.

#### HEALTHCARE

Madam President, I also want to rise today and speak on behalf of the thousands of Montanans who have pre-existing conditions or struggle with the cost of prescription drugs.

Even with the Affordable Care Act's protections, many of these folks struggle to afford their medical bills, their copays at the pharmacy counter and

the local doctors' offices. Instead of working to fix these problems, this administration—the Trump administration—has issued a rule that brings us back to the dark ages by letting insurance companies discriminate against working families across Montana and this country.

The Affordable Care Act guaranteed health coverage for all Americans. It required health insurance companies to issue policies to folks regardless of whether they had preexisting conditions. The Trump administration is chipping away at these laws, and they are tossing these protections out the window so that big insurance can make big bucks.

Health insurance companies across this country are flooding the market with junk plans. They are called junk plans because they are cheap insurance that are junk. When you think you have health insurance and you get sick, it is not there.

Trust me, I know firsthand how this works. When I was 9 years old, I lost three fingers in a meat grinder, and my folks thought they had insurance. They didn't because they had bought a junk plan. They ended up paying every dime for the surgeries related to my left hand out of their pockets—money they didn't have.

These plans tell folks they have insurance, but, truthfully, they don't. They have less coverage, and they don't even cover the most essential health benefits.

Need prescription drugs? You can get them, but it's going to cost you. Maternity care? Sorry, the plan doesn't cover that. Mental health? You would not get that coverage in your wildest dreams. These insurers will tell you that you are getting a great deal, but the truth of the matter is your pocketbook is going to pay the price. God forbid if you ever get in a situation where you need to use it.

What we see is insurance companies lining their pockets and selling plans that do nothing. And the majority leader is working to make it easier for them to do it, all by blocking reasonable, bipartisan bills to improve the ACA and make healthcare more affordable to working families and small businesses around this country.

The Senate was established by our Founders as the greatest deliberative body in the world to be a check and balance on the Office of the Presidency, the executive branch. That simply is not occurring right now.

I mean take a look at the tariff situation. The President puts on tariffs in a knee-jerk reaction, doesn't bring any of our allies along. We are seeing small businesses and family farm agriculture literally being put to the point of being put out of business, and this body lets him do it. A couple of weeks ago, the President said: You know what, we are pulling our troops out of northern Syria, and to hell with our allies.

The Kurds, who have been fighting with us, fighting as partners for the

last 15 years, well, too bad. Done nothing. No checks and balances.

The President asked for other countries to come in and influence our elections, and it seems like the Senate is just fine with that. The greatest country in the world is going to let other countries determine who is elected to our elected offices in this country, whether it be the Presidency, the Senate, or any of us.

Now, we can't even pass a budget. We continue to kick the can down the road. We do have a vote on the Defense bill, which by the way, this body is going to allow the President, if the majority leader has his way, to take any amount of money they want out of that Defense bill and put it into a wall—a wall that costs \$25 million to \$35 million a mile—and we are not even talking about expenses down the road for upkeep.

So we just deal with continuing resolutions—more uncertainty, more uncertainty for families, more uncertainty for business. So right now, we are standing by letting funding for our schools, our roads, our hospitals run out, leaving families across this country—especially in rural America and States like Montana—without resources to be able to do the job.

And that is exactly the case for community health centers in this country. These facilities provide lifesaving care to nearly one-tenth of people in Montana, running 65 healthcare clinics across our State. They don't even know if they are going to have funding come November 21st when the continuing resolution we passed expires.

How can we expect these places to stay open, let alone recruit and retain staff, when they don't even know if they are going to be around in another month? What do I say to folks when their own community health clinics like Hardin, or Libby, or Haver—these communities rely on these health clinics to keep their communities healthy. And quite frankly, because we can't sit down and negotiate and come up with long-term funding agreements, they potentially are going to be out of business.

But the uncertainty for families doesn't start there. The number of kids who don't have insurance has gone up since this administration started its war on healthcare. Kids in Montana are getting the worst of it. The number of kids in my State without insurance went up 25 percent between 2016 and 2018.

Let me say that again. The number of kids in the State of Montana without insurance went up 25 percent between 2016 and 2018. That is the fifth highest percentage jump in the United States. There are places worse. The kids being hit hardest are the kids that are in the most vulnerable groups. They are in Indian Country, which continues to have the highest uninsured rate in this country. These young folks are our future leaders. They are our next generation. We are not doing our job. We are failing them.

This coordinated sabotage of our healthcare system by this administration and this body is unacceptable, and our children deserve better. I am not going to sit here and tell you that the Affordable Care Act was perfect. I said from day one that we needed to work together to make improvements and build upon the successes that were in that bill.

The ACA allowed States like Montana to pass Medicaid Expansion. That insured more than 90,000 Montanans in the process and helped greatly toward keeping our small hospitals open.

It helped millions of Montanans with preexisting conditions rest easy at night knowing that they were not going to be kicked off their plans because of that preexisting condition or hit an annual cap on care. All of that is gone. Americans have spoken clearly. They want more access to affordability, not less. When my colleagues on the other side of the aisle attempted to repeal the ACA a couple of years ago, folks all across this country stood up and said: No.

But here we are again, watching the majority and the Trump administration pushing plans to rip away affordable health insurance from hard-working Americans. I would encourage my colleagues to join together in working and find a bipartisan solution to improve our healthcare system. We need to reduce health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs. We need to crack down on skyrocketing prescription drugs, and we need to expand insurance to more Americans. We need to make sure that when people put their hard-earned money on the line to buy an insurance policy, that it is not junk.

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Mr. President, now, on a lighter subject. Back in my early years on the farm, I would come in on Wednesday night and there would be baseball night in Canada. I got to watch the Montreal Expos for a couple of decades play some pretty darned good baseball. They didn't win, but they were very entertaining.

That franchise moved to Washington, DC, I think in 2006, the same year I got elected to the United States Senate. So consequently, I got to watch the Nats and be entertained by them again—occasionally, even in person.

Last night, they did the impossible. After being 19 and 31, I believe around the 23rd, 24th of May of this year, they ripped off a hundred games and won the World Series. I just want to congratulate them on that feat and look forward to a repeat next season.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from New Hampshire.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend and former colleague, Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina. There have been several eloquent tributes to

Kay. I am sure we will hear many more in the days to come. They all note her profound grace, her fighting spirit, her charm, and of course, I agree with all of those remarks.

I want to especially extend my very sincere condolences to her husband, Chip; to her children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie; and to her father Joe.

The news of her death on Monday was deeply felt here in the Senate. Kay and I were in the same class of freshmen Senators. We came in, in 2008, and as the only two women in that class, we became fast friends. But of course, it wasn't hard to make friends with Kay Hagan. She never met a stranger. She had contagious optimism and joy, and she drew everyone in with her smile and kindness.

Kay was first in the Senate, not as a Senator, but as an intern, where she had the job of operating the elevators. Of course, those were the days when women Senators were few, and they were often appointed to fill temporary vacancies. So I am sure it was a very powerful moment when Kay took the elevator here in the Capitol for the first time as a United States Senator, only the second woman from her State, North Carolina, to do that.

Kay and I often compared notes about our new roles as Senators. We talked about our families and the challenges of commuting to and from DC. I remember Kay showing me and the other women in the Senate pictures of her daughters' weddings and beaming with excitement. She was so tremendously proud of her children and so appreciated the support she received from them and from Chip during her campaigns for public office.

Of course, in addition to her character, Kay had boundless energy. Growing up, she studied ballet, and she aspired to be a professional dancer. And I remember she told me about her "magic bag" that she took with her everywhere, so she could exercise in the morning. It carried a yoga mat and everything else she needed to exercise. She recommended that I get one, and of course, I was never quite energetic enough to do that.

In addition to yoga, Kay loved early morning runs, Pilates, and swimming. It was that swimming that brought Kay some early "notoriety." I use that term in quotes because Kay wanted to use the Senator's swimming pool in the mornings, but when she first got here, there was a sign on the door that said it was for men only. What we learned, after Kay did a little bit of investigating, was it was because some of the male Senators were not interested in wearing appropriate swimming attire when they swam.

Well, Kay put a quick stop to that, and it wasn't long before all of the men were wearing swim trunks, and Kay was swimming laps in the pool with them.

That was Kay. She was incredibly kind, but she was also tough. When she was falsely accused of being an atheist

during her first Senate race, Kay didn't miss a beat. She responded immediately with an ad that set the record straight. She demonstrated to her supporters and to her detractors alike what she was made of.

I have fond memories of our calls when we were both up for reelection in 2014. Kay would call and buck me up. I remember she called me after her last debate to say she was finished. She didn't have to do any more debates. Since I was still looking at having to do two of them, she was very encouraging to me.

With Kay, the glass was always half full. When she arrived in the Senate, it didn't take long for her to make her mark on the issues of greatest importance to North Carolina and the Nation. She applied her skills as a pragmatic legislator, which were honed in the North Carolina Senate, and she got to work on the pressing issues of the day.

She fought tirelessly for jobs and the economic well-being of her constituents. She was a champion of small businesses, for expanding rural broadband, for developing regional infrastructure. She helped pass the historic reforms to Wall Street following the financial crisis because she served on the Banking Committee.

We worked together, along with the rest of the members of the class of 2008, to try and improve the Affordable Care Act as it was being drafted. Kay took a tough vote in favor of the ACA, but she did it because she knew it was going to help her constituents get insurance coverage and healthcare and that it would provide protections for millions of Americans.

Kay and I served together on the Armed Services Committee in the Senate. She fought for our servicemembers, for their families, and for improving the defense of our nation. Kay's husband, father, and brother all served their country in uniform. The challenges that servicemembers and military families face were always top of mind for Kay.

In my office here in the Capitol, there is a photo of me and Kay. It is on our first trip to Afghanistan. We had only been in the Senate about 5 months at that point. We were smiling from ear to ear, even though it was over 100 degrees, we were wearing body armor, and we were in a helicopter with the doors open heading to a Forward Operating Base.

We were smiling because we were so excited and because it was always so fun to travel with Kay. There wasn't a better partner than Kay for these trips. She was diligent. She was inquisitive. She always held herself with grace and kindness and resolve. That was her trademark.

Serving her country and her beloved home State in the United States Senate was a profound honor for Kay, as it is for all of us. I feel fortunate to have known and worked alongside her. She will be dearly missed, not just by all of

us in the Senate, but by so many of her constituents whom she represented in North Carolina.

I want to again extend my deepest condolences to the Hagan family and to the State of North Carolina.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I just want to follow on the comments by my good friend Senator SHAHEEN with regard to Kay Hagan. We came to the Senate together with Senator SHAHEEN. We were all in that class of 2008. It was a big class. We traveled extensively with Kay Hagan. We got to know her very well.

It was really good to hear—I talked to her husband Chip on the phone. We call him Chip; he is Charles. He told me that up to the very last, she was extremely busy. They were traveling around North Carolina. They were doing things. She actually had a very special visit with Vice President Biden before she passed away.

Our heart goes out to the whole family—to the three children. We very much miss her and will miss her a lot. We missed her a lot in the Senate. We are going to miss her.

I will put in a more extensive statement about Kay Hagan.

AMENDMENT NO. 1209

Mr. President, I rise to oppose the Lee amendment and efforts to undermine the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This amendment would prohibit the Department of Interior from using land and water conservation funds to acquire Federal lands and waters.

The underlying bill actually increases funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by \$30 million, and it does so with deep bipartisan support from a majority of Senators. The crucial point here is that this bill passed the Appropriations Committee 31 to 0, so this is a broadly supported program and a broadly supported bill. I urge the Senate to send another strong message today to support the LWCF.

There are many bipartisan land-acquisition priorities that are funded by this bill. They include things like funds to improve access to the Aravaipa Canyon in Arizona; preserve wildlife habitat in the Everglades Headwaters and St. Marks Refuges in Florida, I would let the Presiding Officer know. There is also money to protect the Palo Alto Battlefield in Texas and other historic battlefield sites, as well as funds to expand the El Malpais National Monument in my home State of New Mexico. These are just a few of the projects that our constituents back home are expecting the Department to fund. They would all be stopped in their tracks if this amendment were adopted.

We need LWCF to establish better access for Americans to their own public lands. This program works with private landowners and willing sellers to continue to protect special places for generations to come. I know a bipartisan

majority of this body understands that, and I ask my colleagues to stand with me to defeat this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of the Jones amendment No. 1141, cosponsored by Senator MCSALLY of Arizona. I want to thank the Senator from Alabama for filing this important amendment to preserve transit funding at the levels authorized by Congress under the FAST Act. Without this amendment, transit agencies across the country will face a 12-percent cut. A cut of this magnitude would be devastating, particularly for smaller agencies that rely on Federal funding to meet their annual operating expenses and to carry out necessary maintenance. Without this funding, communities would be forced to scale back capital projects and bus acquisitions, and reduce services, eliminating a major mobility option for many of our constituents, including seniors and persons with disabilities.

At a time when the transit industry faces a \$90 billion state of good repair backlog, we should be increasing transit investments in order to preserve these critical transportation systems. These cuts would reverse the progress we have made over the last 2 years due to the budget agreement that allowed for desperately needed investments in infrastructure. We must prevent any degradation of funding for our transit systems and instead help these agencies modernize their fleets.

This amendment is supported by over 63 associations, including the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the list of the supporting organizations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

American Public Transportation Association, Amalgamated Transit Union, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Planning Association, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, The Bus Coalition, Community Transportation Association of America, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, The Intelligent Transportation Society of America, International Union of Operating Engineers, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of City Transportation Officials, National Association of Counties, National Association of Regional Councils, National League of Cities, National Precast Concrete Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association, Portland Cement Association, Railway Supply Institute.

Transport Workers Union, Transportation for America, Transportation Trades Depart-

ment, AFL-CIO, United States Chamber of Commerce, The United States Conference of Mayors, American Road & Transportation Builders Association (co-chair), Associated General Contractors of America (co-chair), Transport Workers Union, American Coal Ash Association, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Subcontractors Association, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Traffic Safety Services Association, Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association, Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association, Associated Equipment Distributors, Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, International Slurry Surfacing Association, International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, International Union of Operating Engineers, Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, Laborers' International Union of North America, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of Surety Bond Producers, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Steel Bridge Alliance, National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, National Utility Contractors Association, Portland Cement Association, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, The Road Information Program, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me and Senator COLLINS in supporting this amendment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff members who actually made this Transportation, Housing and Urban Development—T-HUD—bill possible. They did extraordinary work. We all recognize that it is their efforts that make these difficult and complicated legislative initiatives possible. On the majority staff, I thank Clare Doherty, Jason Woolwine, Rajat Mathur, Gus Maples, Courtney Young, and LaShawnda Smith. On my staff, I particularly want to thank Dabney Hegg, Christina Monroe, Jessi Axe, and Elisabeth Coats.

I think I speak for all of my colleagues when I salute all the staff members who make this legislation possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 1209

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, there is no doubt that we are blessed with beautiful, useful, and productive lands in our Nation. And there is no doubt that some of them should be preserved as what they are, which happen to be national treasures. But, unfortunately, the Federal Government owns far too much land. It owns far more of these Federal public lands than it should own and far more of these lands than it can possibly take care of.

Let's take a look at this map, for example. This shows in red the land that is owned by the Federal Government in parts of the United States. The Federal Government owns most of the land. This is certainly the case in my home State of Utah, where the Federal Gov-

ernment owns two-thirds of the land. Notice, by the way, that in every State east of Colorado, the Federal Government owns less than 15 percent of the land—in most States, significantly less. In every State west of Colorado, the Federal Government owns more than 15 percent of the land, and in many cases, a whole lot more than 15 percent.

The sheer volume of land that it owns is nothing short of staggering. In fact, the Federal Government owns 640 million acres of land. This is a total larger than the entireties of France, Spain, Germany, Poland, Italy, the United Kingdom, Austria, Switzerland, and the Netherlands combined. That is how much land the Federal Government owns just in America.

With such a vast estate, it is no wonder that there is currently a \$19.38 billion maintenance backlog on those lands. Of that backlog, \$11.92 billion is on lands owned and managed by just the National Park Service. In fact, there are National Park Service backlogs in every single State in the country, as this map demonstrates.

I see here that the question is not whether a particular State has a National Park Service backlog within its State; the question is, How much? In some States, it is very severe. In some States, it is significant but not yet severe. But there is a National Park Service maintenance backlog in every single State.

Many of my colleagues—especially those from the Midwest, as this map shows—don't have a whole lot of Federal land in their States. They have a whole lot less Federal land to maintain, and therefore they have less of a maintenance backlog. They should thank their lucky stars for that. That is a position to be envied.

On one end of the spectrum, there is a \$1.3 billion backlog on National Park Service properties in Delaware. The backlog for the parks in Rhode Island is just under \$1 million. But at the other end of the spectrum, California alone has a whopping \$1.8 billion maintenance backlog just on its national parks alone. That is in just one State. What does that mean? That means the damage from wildfires, ill-kept roads and trails, and neglected facilities have actually kept citizens from accessing our national treasures—national treasures like Yosemite and Yellowstone, our National Mall and the Grand Canyon. Visitors who come from far and wide to see them are either unable to see them at all, or perhaps they make it, but they don't have a good experience when they do. All the while, Washington continues to purchase ever more land, so the maintenance backlog continues to grow.

This must not continue. This staggering, stunning maintenance backlog on the Federal land that we own—the Federal land that is more than all of the long list of European countries I mentioned just a minute ago—can't continue. If we continue on this path, we will only do greater disservice to

our citizens and to the lands themselves.

That is why I have introduced an amendment that would stop the Federal Government's use of taxpayer dollars to acquire more lands in the next year. Specifically, it would prevent the money currently going to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Range Improvement Funds, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service from being used to acquire new lands that the Federal Government cannot properly care for.

It is important, when describing a piece of legislation—in this case, an amendment to another piece of legislation—to explain both what it does and what it does not do. Let me be very clear in telling you what this amendment does not do. This amendment would not reduce the dollar amount being given to any of these programs—not one of them, not by one dollar. It would simply reauthorize the money to ensure that it is being used to care for the lands we already own and lands that need to be cared for so desperately.

While some of my colleagues may disagree with me and may believe that we should continue growing the Federal estate, I ask that, at least for this year, we think of our current lands and our existing national parks and that we think of those States where there are a lot of them and States where the maintenance backlog is especially staggering. These lands won't be national treasures for everyone if we don't, can't, or simply won't properly care for them.

If we continue in this pattern of neglect, there will be treasures for no one. If we continue with this pattern of neglect, we will continue to inflict significant environmental harm that, in addition to being stunning in and of itself, may, in some cases, be difficult or impossible to reverse.

If you support the environment, if you want to protect the environment and the natural wonders and beauties with which this land has been blessed, if you want to protect our national treasures, then you should vote for this amendment.

Voting against this amendment means you are willing to have the glutinous Federal Government continue to acquire more land, even while it refuses to and professes itself to be utterly incapable of maintaining the land it has.

For now, at the very least, we ought to ensure that these lands are safe and accessible for generations to come. Our lands, our citizens, and our environment deserve nothing less.

AMENDMENT NO. 1209 TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

(Purpose: To prohibit the expenditure of certain amounts from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisition.)

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1209.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE] proposes an amendment numbered 1209 to amendment No. 948.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of October 28, 2019, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be 2 minutes of debate between each vote in this series and that all votes after the first be 10 minutes in length.

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1209 TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

The question is on agreeing to the Lee amendment No. 1209.

Mr. LEE. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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 (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 29, nays 64, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 339 Leg.]

YEAS—29

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Enzi	Moran	Tillis
Ernst	Paul	Toomey
Fischer	Risch	Wicker
Grassley	Romney	

NAYS—64

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Hoeven	Schumer
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Jones	Shaheen
Capito	Kaine	Shelby
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Udall
Cortez Masto	McSally	Van Hollen
Cotton	Menendez	Warner
Cramer	Merkley	Whitehouse
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murphy	Young
Durbin	Murray	
Feinstein	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Isakson	Warren
Booker	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The amendment (No. 1209) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

Mr. JONES. Madam President, under the previous order, I call up amendment No. 1141, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama [Mr. JONES], for himself and Ms. MCSALLY, proposes an amendment numbered 1141 to amendment No. 948.

Mr. JONES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the implementation of the "Rostenkowski Test" with respect to the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund)

At the appropriate place in title I of division E, insert the following:

SEC. 1. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to adjust apportionments or withhold funds from apportionments pursuant to section 9503(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Mr. JONES. Madam President, I rise in support of the amendment offered by myself and my friend from Arizona, Senator MCSALLY.

This amendment would permanently block an impending \$1.2 billion in cuts to the Federal public transportation investment. These cuts will affect every one of our States—every one—including 7 million in my home State of Alabama.

Without this legislation to block what is known as the "Rostenkowski Test," every public transit agency will suffer a 12-percent across-the-board cut to transit formula grants this year. For many transit agencies, particularly these smaller transit agencies that serve rural States such as mine, these cuts could be devastating. These cuts would reduce services that are so important to the community, for instance, services for low-income people and services to those who have disabilities.

These cuts would reduce funds for important bus and rail efforts to modernize our transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 1 minute.

Mr. JONES. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I rise in strong support of my amendment with Senator JONES from Alabama. As he said, this is a very important amendment to block \$1.2 billion in cuts to these transit agencies that are impacting every single one of our States. Across Arizona, this is millions

of dollars, a 12-percent cut in every State, and we are going to stop that from happening here today.

As Senator JONES mentioned, this is impacting people of low income, of disabilities, and in rural communities across the board. A broad coalition of over 30 associations—including the American Public Transportation Association, Associated General Contractors of America, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—support our efforts today to block these cuts.

I urge our colleagues to please join us and vote for our amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. THUNE. 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 clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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 82, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 340 Leg.]

YEAS—82

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blumenthal	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Hassan	Rosen
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Brown	Heinrich	Rubio
Burr	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Hoeben	Schumer
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Inhofe	Shaheen
Carper	Johnson	Shelby
Casey	Jones	Sinema
Cassidy	Kaine	Sinema
Collins	Kennedy	Smith
Coons	King	Stabenow
Cornyn	Leahy	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cotton	Markey	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	Young
Fischer	Peters	

NAYS—11

Blackburn	Lee	Sasse
Braun	Paul	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Perdue	Toomey
Lankford	Romney	

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Isakson	Warren
Booker	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The amendment (No. 1141), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 950 WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 950 was withdrawn.

Amendment No. 948, as amended, is agreed to.

The cloture motion on H.R. 3055 is withdrawn.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I see my friend, the senior Senator from Alabama, on the floor. I want to offer my praise for him because we are going to vote on final passage of the fiscal year 2020 Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill, the Agriculture appropriations bill, the Interior appropriations bill, and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. I urge all Members to vote aye.

These are good, bipartisan bills. They show that despite whatever political atmosphere we operate in, the Appropriations Committee can put partisan politics aside and do our work on behalf of the American people.

These bills make responsible investments that build on what we were able to accomplish in fiscal year 2019 while strongly rejecting the shortsighted cuts the Trump administration proposed. They back up our commitment to invest in rural communities and farms, law enforcement, and the environment.

We have reached this point because we worked together quietly during evenings and weekends to get it done. I want to thank the chairs and the ranking members of the subcommittees for their work: Senators HOEVEN and MERKLEY, Senators MURKOWSKI and UDALL, Senators COLLINS and REED, and Senators MORAN and SHAHEEN.

I have often said that Senators are merely constitutional impediments to their staff, and Senator SHELBY and I are lucky to have such a staff. They have worked very long days and nights.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of the staff, both Republicans and Democrats, who deserve our thanks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

VICE CHAIRMAN LEAHY LIST FOR H.R. 3055  
(MINIBUS #2) STAFF FOR THE RECORD

Charles Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, Jay Tilton, Hannah Chauvin, Olivia Matthews, Dianne Nellor, Jean Toal Eisen, Rachael Taylor, Dabney Hegg, Adrienne Wojciechowski, Bob Ross, Teri Curtin, Jennifer Eskra, Blaise Sheridan, Elisabeth Coats, Ryan Hunt, Melissa Zimmerman, Faisal Amin, Jessi Axe, Christina Monroe, Shannon Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, David Adkins, Margaret Pritchard, Morgan Ulmer, Hamilton Bloom, Emy Lesofski, Clare Doherty, Patrick Carroll, Elizabeth Dent, Anna Lanier Fischer, Amber Beck, Allen Cutler, Matt Womble, Sydney Crawford, Lucas Agnew, Nona McCoy, Gus Maples,

Rajat Mathur, LaShawnda Smith, Jason Woolwine, Courtney Young, Valerie Hutton, Elmer Barnes, Penny Myles, Karin Thames, Bob Putnam, Jenny Winkler, Christy Greene, George Castro

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor, and I urge an aye vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. LEAHY. 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 assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and 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 84, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 341 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Blumenthal	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Brown	Heinrich	Rosen
Burr	Hirono	Rounds
Cantwell	Hoeben	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cardin	Inhofe	Schumer
Carper	Jones	Scott (SC)
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Collins	King	Sinema
Coons	Lankford	Smith
Cornyn	Leahy	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Sullivan
Cotton	Markey	Tester
Cramer	McConnell	Thune
Crapo	McSally	Tillis
Daines	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Moran	Warner
Enzi	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—9

Blackburn	Johnson	Sasse
Braun	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Paul	Toomey

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Isakson	Warren
Booker	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 9.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill, as amended, is passed.

The bill (H.R. 3055), as amended, was passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, DEFENSE, STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020—Motion to Proceed

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration on the motion to proceed on H.R. 2740.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ACT

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I would like to speak briefly about an issue important to me, about an issue important to many Americans, and I would like to speak briefly about Senator DURBIN's recent request for a hearing concerning the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act.

The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act is a bill that many Senators have worked for, for nearly a decade, and it has long been a top priority of mine. I have introduced this bill in every single Congress, ever since I was first elected to the Senate back in 2010.

During that time, it has been a subject of widespread debate and discussion. There has been a period of time in which a lot of people have learned a lot about this area. The debate and the discussion has occurred both on the Hill and off the Hill throughout the United States.

Other Members, including Senator SCHUMER, have sought to pass the bill, as I am doing. Whether that passage occurs by unanimous consent or through some other form matters less to me than that we get it passed, but we do need to get it passed. This year, we have come closer to making this important and bipartisan reform a reality, closer than we have ever come before at any point over the nearly decade that this has gotten a lot of attention.

In early July, the House of Representatives passed the bill on the Suspension Calendar by a wide bipartisan supermajority vote of 365 to 65. Around that time, I negotiated an agreement with Senator GRASSLEY to help advance the bill by adding provisions drawn from the Durbin-Grassley H-1B reform bill.

Senator GRASSLEY has for many years, openly and publicly, made it known that he had concerns with the

bill. I was therefore very pleased that we were able to sit down and work out an agreement to address those concerns, while keeping the bill narrow and focused on the immediate problem that it is trying to solve. That is eliminating the country of origin discrimination in our employment green card system. I thank Senator GRASSLEY for working with me on that.

The process by which I have tried to advance this bill through Congress has been open, transparent, and straightforward. I have sought and continue to seek unanimous consent to pass the bill on the floor. If any Member has raised concern about the bill, I have been willing to work with them quickly and in good faith to address their concerns.

That is why, after reaching an agreement with Senator GRASSLEY, I also worked with other Members to resolve their concerns. For much of the past few months, I simply didn't know who, if anyone else on the Democratic side of the aisle, might have had concerns with the bill. We were told that there might be holds on the Democratic hotline, but we were not told who exactly might be holding the bill, and no one approached me with objections.

I certainly had no reason to think that Senator DURBIN would have concerns with the bill. As I have explained before, he was a leading cosponsor of the bill in a previous Congress. What is more, the only substantial difference between the bill he supported and the bill I put forward in this Congress is the addition of the amendment that I negotiated with Senator GRASSLEY, which is drawn almost entirely from provisions of the Durbin-Grassley H-1B reform bill.

In September, I learned that Senator DURBIN did in fact have concerns about the bill in this Congress. As I have with other Members and as I have expressed the willingness to do with other Members, I am ready and willing to work with Senator DURBIN in good faith to quickly and reasonably resolve any objection he may have, while preserving the bipartisan support that this bill has long enjoyed and that it deserves to enjoy.

As I have said before, I don't believe that any further factual development concerning this bill is necessary. Indeed at this point, I believe a hearing can serve no purpose other than to delay speedy action on this important reform and jeopardize our ability to act before the end of the year.

For that reason, I do not support Senator DURBIN's calls for a public hearing. Every day that we delay action on this bill is another day that suffering experienced by immigrants stuck in the green-card backlog continues and indeed intensifies. That is precisely why I will continue to work to pass this bill at the earliest possible date.

The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act arguably has wider and more bipartisan support than any

other immigration bill that has been considered in this body in recent years. The reason for that is that it is focused on a single, serious, solvable problem that I think we can all agree needs to be solved.

Whatever other reforms you think might need to be made to our immigration system, with good reason, we can all agree that America should not treat immigrants differently based on their country of origin. There is no reason for this bill to become yet another casualty to the polarized, partisan divisions that plague immigration policy.

I look forward to working with Senator DURBIN to resolve the concerns he may have about this bill. I reiterate that, once again, this is a narrowly focused bill, one that focuses on a simple but long-standing problem, a problem that subjects some immigrants to needlessly lengthy delays for no reason other than their country of origin. This is from a bygone era that we shouldn't be perpetuating in this country.

We need to fix the problem. The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act would do that, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me. We are almost there, but we need to get it over the finish line.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Georgia.

H.R. 2740

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the vote we are going to have in just a few minutes to appropriate our first appropriations bill for this fiscal year, which, by the way, we are already in the first month of our new fiscal year.

We are under a continuing resolution, which we have talked about ad nauseam in this body and how damaging that is to our military and how expensive it is over the long run. I had breakfast with one of our Secretaries in the DOD today, and he told me that just in the Navy alone, a continuing resolution this year would cost the Navy almost \$5 billion. That is \$50 billion just in one service over the next decade. We can do better than this.

I want to praise Senator SHELBY and Senator LEAHY, the ranking member and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. They have done their job. The subcommittee chairman and ranking members have done their jobs. We are ready to vote on these bills, and it comes down to just an obstructionist issue about funding the wall versus funding our military.

Just last weekend, President Trump announced that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, had been taken off the battlefield by his own hand, I might say. This is a win not just for our country but for the world in this fight against terrorism.

As we now know, the world has gotten to be very dangerous—maybe the most dangerous in my lifetime—with five threats across five domains. We are worried now about places like China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran,

as well as the asymmetric threat of terrorism around the world in over five domains—air, land and sea, and now we have to worry about cyber and space as well.

Let's just take a moment and realize that without a strong military, this Special Operations op over the weekend would not have been possible. Our intelligence community, our special operators, our military personnel, all the supply people, all the people involved in supporting these people at the tip of the sphere came to bear and brought us a victory this week over the No. 1 terrorist in the world.

Everybody in America should be celebrating this incredible achievement by our military. Rather than celebrating, however, our friends across the aisle are trying to change the subject in many ways. One way is in the U.S. House with the hypocritical approach we are seeing right now of denying due process to our President and having a vote this week that is a real mockery of the process in itself. There is no guarantee of due process to the President in this resolution.

I believe the Democrats just don't understand how President Trump got elected, and they hate it so much, they will not even let him have this win relative to taking a major terrorist off the battlefield.

We must never forget how depraved this gentleman was and their ideology really is. These ISIS thugs have been a scourge on that part of the world, and they are not going away, by the way. Since 2014, ISIS has beheaded two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff. Let us never forget that these things occurred. They forced women into sex slavery, including 26-year-old Kayla Mueller, a humanitarian worker who went there to try to do good who was later killed.

These are the people, under al-Baghdadi's leadership, who set fire to a Jordanian pilot—a captured pilot—violating the rules of war. They put him in a cage, poured gasoline on him, and lit him on fire alive. These are the people who lined up 21 Coptic Christians on a beach in Libya and beheaded them in front of a video. They crucified Christians across the Middle East for years.

Al-Baghdadi inspired all of these atrocities. His death brings justice to these countless victims. The fight is not over yet. We have taken out the leadership. We denied them the territorial caliphate. We are now moving to protect the oil so these people will be denied resources so they cannot reconstitute again. These people will not go away. The ideology has not died. We have just taken their caliphate away. We have to continue to do that.

The current strategy has not changed in Syria. The President has said this publicly. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said it publicly. We are there to defeat ISIS. We are there to protect Iraq, deter Iran, and support our friends in Israel, but we need bipar-

tisan support and consistent funding to achieve this bigger mission. That is just one of them in one domain. We have others across the world. With an ever-growing military capacity in China alone, we have to get serious about how we fund, consistently, our U.S. military effort.

Yet, as I stand here today, we are under a continuing resolution, which we know handcuffs our own military and adds hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade to the cost of funding our military. We have a CR right now that has us actually spending \$4 billion that the Department of Defense has already identified that they don't want to spend. Yet because of continuing resolution rules, they have to keep spending against these obsolete programs and wasting that \$4 billion.

In addition, we are sitting here at the end of October, the first month of the fiscal year, and we have not even finalized the authorization for our defense because of not being able to work this out with the House.

We have to do that and get to funding right away to fund our military. Our men and women in uniform are the best that we have in America, and we owe it to them to not drop the ball in this eleventh hour to show them that we have their backs. They can do the job, but only if we fund them.

This is a travesty, and right now it is broken down into partisan politics, not over defending our country. It puts our national security at risk.

I will give us just one little piece of data here to close this out. Over the last 50 years, we disinvested in our military by at least 25 percent three different times under three Democratic Presidents. That is just historical fact; that is not a partisan observation. We did it in 1976 to 1980; we did it in the 1990s; we did it in the last administration over 8 years. We disinvested in the military by at least 25 percent.

We saw the travesty that the military had in terms of readiness in January 1, 2017. We saw how bad our readiness was when two-thirds of our elite Strike Fighters, FA-18s, in the Navy could not fly. Only 3 of our 58 Army brigades could go to war that night. It was a terrible position to be in. Under new leadership, we have gotten that readiness back, but now we have to rebuild the military that has been burned up over the last 20 years fighting terrorism.

The challenge we have before us right now is to do our No. 1 job, and that is to fund and appropriate the Federal Government. Of that, discretionary spending is what this is all about. It is only \$1.3 trillion of the \$4.6 trillion the Federal Government will totally spend this year, but of that, the military, the VA, and all domestic discretionary programs make up \$1.3 trillion.

I am advocating today that we take our responsibility seriously to fund our military because of the growing threats around the world and the dam-

age we see that it does to the efforts of freedom by our friends abroad. There is no bigger responsibility we can have than to support our men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line every day. The best testament of that is this example we just saw of a success in Syria, very close to the Turkish border, pulled off through places where Russians and Syrian Government and Syrian rebels and Turkish soldiers were all in the general vicinity. We pulled off a miraculous victory for freedom in the world. Now it is our job to fund defense and get on with that. I highly suggest that we take that very seriously.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate is going to vote on whether to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to a package of appropriations bills that will include the Senate Defense appropriations bill, and the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill.

There are many things in these bills that I support, but I am going to strongly urge all Senators to vote no. I am disappointed that the majority leadership has taken this step. They bowed to demands by President Trump, and that is continuing to delay funding for our troops.

They insist on including in this bill authority for President Trump to raid American tax dollars from our military and their families. President Trump wants to raid that money to pay for his wall, after he had given his solemn word that Mexico would pay for it, and that is not acceptable. Because he cannot keep his word, he has already raided \$6.2 billion from the Department of Defense this year alone for his border wall.

He did all of that without congressional approval of either Republicans or Democrats. He diverted \$2.6 billion from the fiscal year 2019 Defense Appropriations Act. Then he took another \$3.6 billion from military construction projects for his southern border wall.

That money came from projects that would have improved the lives of our troops and their families: military schools, childcare centers, and improved training facilities, many of which have been damaged by hurricanes and other natural disasters.

On this side, we oppose this bill because we are fighting to protect funds that are meant for the women and men of our military and their families. We oppose this bill because we stand with those patriotic Americans, and we refuse to place the President's failed campaign promises on their backs.

That alone should convince every Member of this Chamber to oppose this package. Yet the Labor-HHS appropriations bill that is tied to this Defense bill also shortchanges the domestic priorities of the American people by stealing even more money to pay for President Trump's vanity wall.



If all things were equal, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill—our largest domestic funding bill—would receive a 3-percent increase in fiscal year 2020, but the Republican bill provides less than a 1-percent increase for Labor-HHS, while the Department of Homeland Security's appropriations bill receives a 7-percent increase to cover the cost of the President's demand for his wall. It doesn't add up to me, and it doesn't add up to most Americans, who broadly oppose President Trump's wall.

If, in the House and Senate, we were to have an up-or-down vote on the wall, I suspect it would fail. So now, they are trying to do it through a backdoor way—a shortsighted cash grab directed by President Trump. This is a bill that fails to cover even the annual costs of inflation in public health, Head Start, childcare, special education, veterans' training grants, and dozens of other programs that are relied upon by the American people. He will cut the veterans programs and he will cut the childcare programs to pay for this wall.

I am also disappointed by the willful spread of misinformation by President Trump and the Republican leadership regarding our opposition to this bill. They have baselessly accused the Democrats of blocking a 3.1-percent pay raise for our troops by our opposing this package. That is ridiculous.

Regardless of the action we take in this Chamber, the men and women of our military will see a raise in January. No matter what we do, they are going to get that raise. This well-deserved raise is based on a statutory formula that does not need to be authorized by the legislation before us. In fact, neither the House nor the Senate Defense appropriations bills contain any provision that is related to a pay raise. Reaching a bipartisan-bicameral consensus on a \$693 billion Defense appropriations bill is hard enough without there being the willful and irresponsible spreading of misinformation.

This campaign of misinformation does not stop there. The Republican leadership has even accused the Senate Democrats of holding up aid to Ukraine. That would be laughable if it were not for the real-world consequences we are seeing play out in Ukraine today. It is the Republicans who are holding both military funding and Ukraine aid hostage to President Trump's vanity wall. It is the Republicans who refuse to bring a bill to the floor unless Congress enables President Trump to continue stealing funds from our troops and our military families to pay for the wall that he gave his solemn word that Mexico would pay for.

The Senate Democrats have long advocated for aid to Ukraine. We insisted it be included in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills, and we will continue to do so because it is the right thing to do. Since 2015, I have personally supported more than \$3.3 billion in aid for Ukraine. That is a level that far exceeds the President's request.

These baseless accusations are merely attempts to distract from why the

Senate Democrats are actually opposing this package. We will not stand idly by as President Trump continues to rob our military families—using them as his personal piggy bank—for a failed campaign promise that he cannot keep. We will not stand idly by as the domestic priorities of the American people are shortchanged to pay for some unnecessary monument to the President's ego along our southern border.

We have been down this road before. Just last month, the Republican leadership failed to get the votes that were necessary to move these bills, but I think it is prudent to remind everyone that this entire strategy has been tried before. It failed before, and it will fail again—that strategy being the wall over everything, that strategy being the wall at all costs no matter how much damage it does to our veterans, no matter how much damage it does to our military families, and no matter how much damage it does to American children. It is a strategy of a wall and a campaign promise over the American people.

That same strategy drove the country into the longest government shutdown in American history earlier this year that cost the taxpayers billions of dollars, and they got absolutely nothing in return. Incidentally, that was when the Republicans controlled both Chambers of Congress, and they still allowed this shutdown. So, if you think this failed Republican strategy will work on the second go-around, I have a fence for you to paint back at my home in Vermont.

Everyone here knows there is only one real path forward to our reaching agreement on bipartisan bills, and I believe it is time we reached that agreement. I have tremendous respect for my good friend Chairman SHELBY. Look at the bills we just passed overwhelmingly. That is because Senator SHELBY and I were able to sit down and work on these bills, put them together, and do them in a bipartisan way. I have told the Secretary of Defense and others that we still have time to do that on the Defense appropriations bill. We can do it.

When we come back next week, we should try again. Let the grownups in both parties in this body work on it. We will get it done, but the clock is ticking. It is really time to stop the political maneuverings and to stop the sloganeering. Let's do real work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise in the U.S. Senate to fight for America's military.

This past week, our Special Forces eliminated the leader of ISIS and his likely successor. Their accomplishments should remind all of us that our brave troops always carry out their duties no matter what the circumstances. They shouldn't expect anything different from the U.S. Congress. Yet they

do. They have come to expect that their elected leaders will fail to execute the most fundamental of their duties—funding the government. They don't deserve failure, and they certainly shouldn't expect it. They deserve our gratitude, and they deserve our unwavering commitment.

The best way to demonstrate that gratitude and commitment, I believe, is by passing an appropriations bill that gives our military what it needs. Our men and women in uniform should never find themselves on the battlefield, wondering if they will be able to support their families back home. They should never wonder if their training needs, support requirements, or mission objectives will be held hostage by partisan bickering in the Congress. They should never wonder why America's adversaries are doubling down on their military investments while America is sitting idle.

I believe the United States must maintain its edge over our adversaries. China is escalating its defense spending, which we all know. Yet America's military is operating under a continuing resolution. That means that our military is having to face tomorrow's threats with yesterday's funding levels. That means that our military's planning and operations are weighed down with uncertainty.

That should be unacceptable to all of us, on both sides of the aisle, in the U.S. Senate. We have an opportunity to change that today by voting to proceed to the fiscal year 2020 Defense appropriations bill. What are we talking about here? We are talking about \$695 billion in total defense funding. That is national security for the United States of America. That is an increase of about \$20 billion over last year's level. This increased funding, among other things, would provide a 3.1-percent pay increase for our men and women in uniform—the largest in 10 years. Believe me, they need it. It would continue the development of the world's most advanced weapons systems, and we will need them. It would increase our investments in hypersonics, 5G technology, artificial intelligence, missile defense, and cyber security, and we need that. I believe all of this is absolutely essential to maintaining America's strategic advantage over our main adversaries and competitors—China and Russia. We had better not lose sight of that here in the Senate.

Unfortunately, at the moment, my Democratic colleagues seem more focused on scoring political points than ensuring that our military has the certainty and the funding it needs to counter our adversaries. They have said they will not allow us to fund our military here in the Senate until the funding levels for all 12 appropriations bills are agreed to with the House. If that defies most Americans' senses of how our government works and what is most important, it should.

My Democratic colleagues want to press the pause button here in the Senate. I don't agree with that. I believe

that we must complete our work, and I believe that most of the Democrats want to get this done.

Foremost, we should certainly complete our work on the Defense bill. Funding America's military should be our priority. It should come first here in the Senate. Our men and women in uniform don't get to hit the pause button, as we do. They don't get to shirk their duties, and neither does Congress. We cannot afford additional delay. Our service men and women—those troops whom we have entrusted to keep us safe and protect our democracy, our country, and our allies—cannot afford additional delay. We must not kick the can down the road when it comes to America's security and America's military.

Let's come together. We have done this. Senator LEAHY and I worked together last year, and for the first time in years, we met the deadline. We can do this again. We need the green light here. We need to provide the resources that are necessary to maintain the greatest fighting force the world has ever known. We should never be second to anybody else. Let's show our troops that we can actually get our work done here, that we actually care about them.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

I ask unanimous consent that the vote start now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 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 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 140, H.R. 2740, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Richard C. Shelby, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger F. Wicker, Lisa Murkowski, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, Mitch McConnell.

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 motion to

proceed to H.R. 2740, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) 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 (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—yeas 51, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 342 Leg.]

#### YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Peters
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Jones	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Perdue	Young

#### NAYS—41

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Manchin	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Paul	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—8

Bennet	Isakson	Sanders
Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 41. Three-fifths of the Senators having not voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The majority leader.

#### MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 355.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Tim Scott, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Braun, Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, Michael B. Enzi, Chuck Grassley, Mitch McConnell.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 463.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

John Thune, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, Mitch McConnell.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 464.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

John Thune, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, Shelley Moore Capito.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 458.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lee Philip Rudofsky, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Lee Philip Rudofsky, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Richard C. Shelby, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger F. Wicker, Lisa Murkowski, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, Mitch McConnell.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 365.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COTTON. 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.

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

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, on October 30, 2019, I was not present for the vote on S.J. Res. 52, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to "State Relief and Empowerment Waivers." If I were present, I would have voted yes.●

## VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, today I voted against amendment No. 1141. I would like to take an opportunity to explain my position.

In September 2019, the Treasury Department reported, in accordance with Federal laws, that the highway trust fund's mass transit account had an unfunded authorization of \$27 billion but only estimated \$26 billion in revenue to be collected over the next 4 years. In other words, the account was expected to take on more than \$1 billion in obligations than it would be able to collect in revenue.

Instead of correcting the problem, the Jones amendment ignored it, preventing Treasury from implementing the law to bring the mass transit account back into balance.

Since I joined this body in January, I have repeatedly noted my concern for our nearly \$1 trillion annual budget deficit and our more than \$22 trillion

Federal debt. Washington is broken. We do not have the money to finance even the most basic functions of our government: infrastructure and our national defense.

Today's vote was an example of the consequences we may face when Congress lets these serious financial issues languish. We cannot continue to ignore these problems. We cannot continue to pretend our fiscal problems are solved by waving away protections placed by prior Congresses.

I believe that Congress must fix this problem and bring our trust funds into long-term solvency. When the Environment and Public Works Committee approved our highway bill in July, I ensured the bill contained language stating our intent to do just that.

Today, Congress was lucky—we could push our spending problem off to another day. One day soon, we will not be so lucky.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words in memory of my good friend and former colleague Kay Hagan, who passed away this week.

One of the hardest aspects of this work in the Senate is the loss of a colleague. So my thoughts are with Senator Hagan's family and friends in this difficult time.

I recall well her 6 years here with both deep respect and friendship.

In the time we served in this body together, I was able to get to know Kay very well, and I can honestly say I am lucky to call her a friend. She was always kind and a positive face and worked hard for her constituents and the Nation.

Kay was a dedicated public servant who served North Carolinians for 16 years. She got her start in politics in the 1970s when she interned right here in the Senate. As an elevator operator during her internship, she brushed shoulders with some of the biggest names of the day. Kay later described the experience as "infectious," and it inspired her own political ambitions.

In 1998, that political career took her to the North Carolina State Senate. It didn't take long for Kay's talents to be noticed. She rose through the ranks quickly and became cochair of the budget committee.

Her trademark pragmatism and focus on problem solving served her well in that position. Her hard work earned her a ranking as one of the top 10 most influential members in the State senate.

In 2008 Kay won a race that brought her here, to the U.S. Senate, where her passion and focus continued to distinguish her. Kay was a fierce advocate for her State, using her position on the Armed Service Committee to help North Carolina's military families. Whether it was asking the tough questions on water contamination at military bases or mustering support for

veterans' caregivers, Kay was always there for our servicemembers.

Kay was also a breath of fresh air in the Senate. There were only 15 women serving in the Senate when she came to Washington in January 2009. When she first arrived, she soon learned that the Senate pool was only open to men. She thought that was wrong and got the rules changed. She was a firm believer in equality and making the changes you want to see in the world.

No matter how big or small the issue, Kay always tried to help the people of North Carolina. Just a few months ago, she made one of her last public appearances at a groundbreaking for a new air traffic control tower at Piedmont Triad International Airport. When she was first elected to the Senate, she toured the old air traffic control tower at Piedmont and learned that a project to replace it was stalled in Washington. Kay took on the project and fought for funding to finally get it moving forward. It is through her work and diligence that the tower is being built today.

From reproductive rights to veterans' healthcare to transportation infrastructure, you could always count on Kay to deliver. She will be missed by many for her warmth and devotion to public service.

I send my deepest condolences to her husband, Charles "Chip", and her three children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie.

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

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to my good friend Senator Kay Hagan.

When I think of Kay, I will always think of joy, as reflected by the bright colors she used to love wearing. Regardless of how things could get at times, her wonderful spirit would make it all seem better.

You could always count on Kay to look out for people, whether it was restoring a program to pay tuition for Active-Duty servicemembers, establishing stronger protections for victims of domestic violence, or passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to stop pay discrimination.

Kay made history. She was the first woman Democratic Senator from North Carolina and the State's second woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate. I have always thought that the women of the Senate work harder, work together, and get things done. Kay was definitely one of those women.

In fact Kay, in her inimitable way, summed it up best when she said, "There are only two types of senators: those who'd spend all day on their hair . . . and the women senators."

Kay loved to swim, and when she arrived as a new Senator in 2009, she went down to the Senate pool only to find a sign outside that said "Men Only"—a fact that she mentioned during one of

her first speeches as a Senator without realizing media was present. When the press started calling around to various offices asking about the "men only" Senate pool, some were quick to push back on Kay's claim, so Kay asked them to meet her down at the pool to see for themselves. Within a day, the sign was changed to "Co-Ed Aquatic Facility: Please Dress Appropriately." As it turned out, four male Senators had been swimming naked. But because of Kay Hagan, now all Senators can enjoy the pool, and everyone wears "appropriate attire".

That is what I loved about working with Kay. She always looked out for her colleagues. And so when Kay left the Senate, the women Senators had a special farewell party for her next to the pool.

Kay's drive to get things done came in part from her family. Born in Shelby, NC, as the second of three children and the only daughter, Kay once remarked "being the girl in the middle . . . I had to fight for everything I got."

And fight she did, rising from an internship in the U.S. Capitol in the 1970s, where she operated the elevators for U.S. Senators, to eventually becoming a Senator herself. In between, Kay served as State senator for 10 years and was named as one of North Carolina's "Ten Most Effective Senators" three terms in a row.

My friend, former Vice President Walter Mondale, once told me that when elected officials gain power, they "either grow or they swell." Kay was a Senator who grew.

Kay was one bright yellow ray of sunshine for everyone she touched—the Senate, her beloved State of North Carolina, her friends, and her family. As she struggled with her illness the last few years, her loving husband, Chip, and their family were always at her side. I encourage everyone to look up at the Sun and think of Kay. •

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to former Senator Kay Hagan, who left us this week, much too early, at the age of 66. Kay and I entered the Senate together, in 2009. Our class of freshman Democratic Senators was very close, and I spent a lot of time with Kay. She was warm and vivacious and 100 percent committed to her home State of North Carolina.

Kay was the first woman Democratic Senator elected from North Carolina, and she beat a formidable incumbent. By the time she entered the Senate, she had already gained a reputation in her State as a leader and a fighter, having served in the State senate for 10 years.

Kay was a woman of great strength, grace, and accomplishment. She was a lawyer, a banker, a legislator, a mother of three, and grandmother of five. Kay came to the Senate to get things

done for North Carolina and the Nation. To be effective, she worked across the aisle to find solutions to the everyday problems facing Americans. When she entered the Senate, she said, “We have a Congress now that is kind of divided, and I want to be one of the ones that helps bring people together.”

Kay was a woman of principle. She was a key vote in support of the Affordable Care Act—that resulted in millions of Americans gaining access to health care. She stood in favor of choice for women, gay marriage, equal pay for women, the Violence Against Women Act, and expanding background checks on gun sales.

She was a fierce defender of military families, of which there are so many in North Carolina, and served on the Armed Services Committee. In hearings, she pressed the Army on the unexplained deaths of 11 infants at Fort Bragg and pushed for full disclosure of documents related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. And before many others, she supported women serving in combat zones. “Anybody’s who qualified should be able to serve,” she said.

Kay fought for the “little guy.” She used her banking expertise to fight against payday lending. She wanted a fairer minimum wage, so families can support themselves. She supported job creation and small business. “For me in North Carolina, it’s jobs, jobs, jobs,” she said.

She understood that big money in politics was drowning the voice of regular Americans and that access to the ballot box is being blocked. After her Senate loss, Kay went on to serve as resident fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University with a focus on money in politics and voting rights, saying, “We need to encourage young folks across the country to go exercise their constitutional right to vote. It is something that our Constitution gives us, but not enough people exercise it.”

Kay wanted to inspire young people—especially young women—to vote, to be informed, to run for office. Kay did inspire. And she leaves us with a legacy of integrity, commitment, and civility. I was proud to be her colleague, but I was even more proud to be her friend, and I send my heartfelt condolences to her family.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I remember and recognize the life of former U.S. Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina.

I am grateful that I had the privilege to serve with Senator Hagan here in the United States Senate. Her approach to her job was something we would all do well to learn from. Kay was a model of civility, optimism, and selfless service to the State she loved.

Early in her life, Kay served as a Capitol Hill intern for her uncle, Senator Lawton Chiles of Florida. Her duties included operating the Senators-only elevator. In time, she would go on to prove that she belonged on that elevator, too.

After 10 years in the North Carolina Senate, she won election to the United States Senate and served her home State with dignity. Even in the face of one of the most expensive and challenging election campaigns in this body’s history, Senator Hagan remained focused first and foremost on how to find common ground in this Chamber and the ways she could deliver for her constituents in North Carolina.

I am particularly grateful for the model that Senator Hagan set as the cochair of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus. In that role, she worked hard to forge bipartisan consensus around a comprehensive package of bills to increase public access for hunting and fishing and to extend important fish and wildlife conservation programs.

Julie and I are keeping her husband, Chip; their three children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie; and all of their grandchildren in our hearts. We will all miss Kay.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I first met Kay Hagan at a People magazine photoshoot for the Senate’s “Leading Ladies” after I was elected in 2012. I appreciated how warm and welcoming she was towards me. I have fond memories of working with Kay on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and we forged a partnership through our leadership roles on the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee.

My deepest sympathies are with her family during this difficult time.

#### NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 130th birthday of the State of North Dakota. On November 2, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison signed the documents turning Dakota Territory into two States, North Dakota and South Dakota. In the 13 decades since then, the people of North Dakota have embraced the many opportunities and challenges of living in the geographic center of North America.

God has blessed us with abundant natural resources, and with hard work and innovation, North Dakotans have fed the world and fueled our Nation. We are top producers of wheat, sunflowers, dry edible beans, navy and pinto beans, canola, flaxseed, and honey. Our ranchers raise 1.7 million beef cattle—or almost three head of cattle for every North Dakotan.

As the Nation’s second largest producer of oil in the country, we are one of the reasons the United States becomes closer every year to being energy independent. As one of the country’s top 10 coal-producing States, our lignite reserves have an 800-year supply. Before there were Federal reclamation laws, North Dakota was enforcing its own, and our air quality has been ranked at among the best in the Nation. We proudly embrace an “all of the above” energy policy that, in addition to oil and coal, supports production of wind and biofuels.

Every year, visitors and new residents discover the beauty of our State, with its distinct geographic regions. A young Theodore Roosevelt’s years of ranching in the North Dakota Badlands greatly influenced his conservation policies as our Nation’s 26th President. North Dakota has been regarded the birthplace of conservation as Roosevelt, who was known as the Conservation President, established vast protections for wildlife and public lands through new national forests, bird reserves, game preserves, national parks, and national monuments. He said, “I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota.”

My State can often be found at the top of quality of life rankings in America, largely due to the strong sense of community engagement and social support present from border to border.

I speak for all North Dakotans in the pride we have for what our State has given to the Nation and world in our first 130 years, but, in true North Dakota spirit, I believe most would agree with me that we are just getting started and the best is yet to come. Happy Birthday, North Dakota.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH R. BRITTON

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is an honor to recognize the years of dedication and service of my friend and departing chief of staff, Joseph R. Britton.

Joe has served as my chief of staff for more than 4 years and has managed my Senate office in a professional and purposeful manner. He has overseen my team with incredible leadership and has consistently motivated us all to work hard and make a difference for New Mexicans each and every day.

Joe’s career on Capitol Hill began in 2003, when he served as a legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Ben Nelson from his home State of Nebraska. He then served as legislative director and deputy chief of staff in the office of U.S. Senator MARK UDALL. He also served as a senior adviser to former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack before coming to my office in 2015. He brought with him passion and expertise in healthcare, public lands, budget, and appropriations policy.

As chief of staff, Joe has led both our Washington, DC, and New Mexico offices in Albuquerque, Roswell, Las Cruces, Farmington, and Santa Fe. Joe visited every corner of our State. It is a testament to his dedication to maintaining strong working relationships that New Mexicans know that they can count on our office to be reliable, accessible, and in their corner. Joe took the time to learn about New Mexico and understand our rich history, our thriving culture, and the complex, pressing issues we face in the Land of Enchantment. Throughout his service, Joe has shared my mission and drive to solve problems and find ways to make a difference for New Mexicans.

I recognize that Joe couldn't be where he is or who he is today without the love and support of his family. For her support of him and constant dedication, I thank his wife, Katie. I would also like to recognize Joe and Katie's children, Louise and Jamey, for lighting up their parent's lives. We all look forward to seeing them grow up in the years ahead.

On behalf of the American people, the people of the State of New Mexico, and on behalf of my team that Joe has so ably led for the past 4 years, I thank him for his service. While I am sad to see him go, I know that he will continue to make a difference in the lives of everyone he meets. Joe has been doing that from his first day on Capitol Hill.

I ask my colleagues in the United States Senate to join me in recognizing the dedicated service of my chief of staff, Joseph R. Britton.

#### TRIBUTE TO EVANN BERRY

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Evann Berry for her contributions and dedicated service as a member of my personal office staff.

A native of Jackson, MS, Evann earned her bachelor of science in biological engineering at Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University. After her college tenure, Evann began her professional career by serving as an emerging leader scholar for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, followed by an internship with the office of the late U.S. Senator Thad Cochran. In May 2016, Evann was hired as a full-time staff member for Senator Cochran, where she easily proved how indispensable her talents were for serving the good constituents of Mississippi. Following Senator Cochran's retirement, Evann maintained a model work ethic within my office that has proven to be a testament to her good character.

Evann's contributions throughout her tenure have been invaluable to the legislative functions of not just my office but my predecessor's office as well, and her insightful input will be missed. I, along with the rest of my office, have benefitted from Evann's knowledge and experience. Her personal qualities are impeccable. She is a hard-working, courteous, and intelligent young woman, who has a strong sense of responsibility, good judgment, and a pleasant demeanor that makes her an easy person to like.

Mr. President, Mississippi and our Nation have been well-served by the diligence, dedication, and commitment to excellence Evann provided on a daily basis. She has put forth her best efforts to reflect credit on me, our State, and the U.S. Senate and has been successful in doing so. I will miss Evann's good counsel. She has my appreciation and gratitude for the notable job she has done in the Senate. I wish Evann all the best in her future endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MARGARET ST. CLAIR PLASTINO

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true inspiration from my home State of Idaho, Margaret St. Clair Plastino. Likely the oldest living registered nurse in Idaho, Margaret has truly used her 102 years on this earth to improve the health of those in her community. Because of this lifetime of service, she is being honored on Monday, November 4, 2019, by her fellow nurses at the Idaho Nurses Recognition Dinner cosponsored by the Idaho Center for Nursing, Nurse Leaders of Idaho, and the American Nurses Association of Idaho. This is a well-deserved honor, as Margaret spent the majority of her life improving healthcare in Idaho.

Margaret was born in Utah in 1917 to Edwin St. Clair and Evelyn Borrow before she and her family moved to Shelley, ID. She has remained in eastern Idaho ever since, helping her community and serving as a positive influence in the lives of those she encounters. Margaret graduated from the Idaho Falls LDS Hospital School of Nursing in 1939 and was hired by Bonneville County as county nurse in 1942. Beginning her career during the Great Depression, Margaret not only provided much needed medical care, she also provided emotional support and comfort to patients. She treated each patient with the devotion and care that were central to her character.

Margaret married her husband, Ben Plastino, in 1948, and they were blessed with three daughters. She began a new full-time role raising their family in 1952. Although she was no longer spending her days caring for patients as a full-time nurse, Margaret continued to help provide healthcare to the community where she could, including administering important vaccines. She eventually returned to the nursing profession, becoming the first home health nurse in southeastern Idaho. After she retired, she maintained active in the field and volunteered in various roles for the next 25 years.

There are countless stories that illustrate Margaret's devotion as a nurse. Many of these have been shared in local and State newspapers recently and there are certainly more to be shared amongst her friends, family, and community. Such instances include Margaret's decision to administer tetanus shots to those affected by the Teton Dam collapse in 1976. She also cared for children of a struggling family when she found out they did not have sufficient food in their household. It is heartening to hear stories such as these and I hope they will continue to spread and inspire more individuals to do as Margaret has.

Margaret went the extra mile in all that she did to ensure the best care was administered to her community. She did not do this for accolades or atten-

tion. She recognized that she could be of service to her community and wanted to use her skill sets to help. She has demonstrated the love she has for her community and demonstrated how to treat each patient in a manner that reflects their dignity as a person. Margaret is selfless and the type of individual who makes her community and Idaho such a special place. There is no one more deserving to be honored.

Today, I express appreciation on behalf of countless individuals from the great State of Idaho, impacted by Margaret's selfless service. She's truly an extraordinary citizen who didn't just see providing healthcare as a profession but as a calling. I join her colleagues in honoring her lifetime of service.●

#### HONOR FLIGHT NEVADA

• Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to recognize a group of national heroes as they have embarked on their Honor Flight from Nevada to Washington, DC. Nevada is home to over 225,000 veterans, and I am glad that we are able to honor 41 of these brave individuals today. These courageous men and women served in our military and sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms and values. Today's honor flight includes individuals who served in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard. As we welcome them to the Nation's Capital, let us remember that these men and women put their lives on the line to answer our country's call to duty, and let us strive to emulate the greatness that they have so selflessly displayed.

I would like to begin with honoring individuals who served in the United States Army. Mr. Glenn Christman, 93, who served in the Army from 1944-1960, spanning World War II and Korea. He was a soldier in the Special Forces, as well as a paratrooper, and attained the highest enlisted rank of sergeant major. He was shot nine times throughout his service and was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Mr. Vincent Cimino, 86, who served in the Army from 1953-1955 during the Korean war. He was a soldier stationed in Germany as a clerk typist, responsible for making dog tags for his battalion. Mr. Donald Davis, 85, who served in the Army from 1954-1956 during the Korean war. He was a soldier in the Quartermaster Corps. Mr. Alfred Fiel, 90, who served in the Army during the Korean war. He was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, and served as a supply clerk for the military police. Mr. Ronald Fortmeyer, 87, who served in the Army during the Korean war from 1952-1954. He was a private first class serving as an infantry soldier on the 38th parallel. Mr. Charles Nola, 82, who served during the Korean and Cold wars. He was a soldier stationed in Germany, as well as in the U.S. working as a senior movement specialist. Mr. William Sanchanko, 92, who served in the Army

during World War II. He was stationed in Manila, Philippines, serving as a military policeman. Mr. Michael Stem, 82, who served in the Army from 1961–1968 during the Vietnam war. He was a chief warrant officer 2, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

The second group of individuals I would like to honor today are those that served in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Jerome “Jerry” Gardberg, 82, served 32 years as a marine, a career that spanned both the Vietnam and Cold wars, as a communications officer. Mr. John Jesse, 83, who served in the Marines from 1954–1962, working in helicopter warfare development, and rising to the rank of sergeant before separating from the Marine Corps.

The third group of individuals I would like to honor today are those that served in the United States Navy. Mr. Anthony Barbaro, 85, who served during the Korean war and was stationed in the United States, Philippines, and Japan. He was a crew chief aboard the USS *Boxer*. Mr. Eugene “Frenchy” Bousquet, 84, who served during the Korean and Vietnam wars and spent 22 years in the Navy as an electrician and instructor. Mr. Kenneth Knudson, 81, who served during the Vietnam war as part of a Navy career that spanned from 1960–1980. He was a line and naval security group officer, and attained the rank of lieutenant commander. Mr. Gerald May, 86, who served from 1951–1955 during the Korean war. Seaman First Class David Miller, 92, who served during World War II aboard the USS *Breton*. Fireman Second Class Daniel Nall, 93, who served during World War II from 1944–1945 as a motor machinist mate. Mr. Larry “Nick” Nicolai, 82, who was stationed in the South Pacific during the Korean war as an electrician’s mate aboard the USS *Prestige* and the USS *Mattaponi*. Seaman Abraham Sabori, 86, who served from 1951–1954 during the Korean war. Mr. Donald Van De Steeg, 96, who served during World War II from 1943–1946 in the 7th Fleet under Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid. Torpedoman First Class Marvin Wear, 84, who served during both the Korean and Vietnam wars aboard destroyers and submarines as part of a Navy career that spanned from 1952–1972. Petty Officer First Class Patricia Whitlock, who served in Desert Storm during a career that spanned from 1978–1996 in which she worked as a mess specialist career counselor, and metal craftsman.

The fourth group of individuals I would like to honor today are those that served in the United States Air Force. Colonel Mack Boone, 90, who served 25 years of intermittent service of Reserve and Active Duty from 1949–1989. He was a B-26 Navigator, commander of Class A Unit, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals. Ms. Anne Bousquet, 84, who served during the Korean war from 1953–1957. She worked in communications at the Pentagon and in Eng-

land. Mr. Donald Furlong, 85, who served during the Vietnam war as part of a 22-year career from 1953–1975. He was stationed in North Africa and England as an aircraft maintenance crew chief on the Recon Bomber 47. Mr. Skip Gruber, 81, who served during the Vietnam war in the Air Force and Army working as an aircraft electronics repairman. He was awarded the Bronze Star. Mr. Min Hiu Hen, 79, who served during the Vietnam war in the Air Force and Army as a transportation officer and pilot. He was shot down on his 318th combat mission and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart. Senior Airman Robert Kundel, 75, who served during the Vietnam war from 1963–1967 refueling aircraft. Private First Class Luis Maldonado, 92, who served during World War II in both the Army and Air Force, his career spanning from 1946–1949. He worked in the hangar storage department and guarded prisoners waiting to be repatriated. Airman First Class Ralph Reggans, 84, who served during the Korean war in the Army and Air Force from 1950–1960 as a combat engineer. Senior Master Sergeant Fredrick Marshall Stilt Sr., 93, who served during the second World War, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars in both the Army and Air Force as a casualty reporting assistant. He earned the Bronze Star Medal for his service during the Tripoli Evacuation of 1967. Master Sergeant Fredrick Marshall Stilt Jr., 72, who served during the Vietnam war in the Army and Air Force. During his 20-year career, he worked in radio communications. Mr. Lloyd Tatro, 87, who served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. During his career that spanned from 1950–1970, he worked in radar support directing B-52 bombers to their targets. Mr. Rollie Tatro, 85, who served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. During his career that spanned from 1952–1975, he worked as a baker and supervisor. Mr. William “Bing” Tatro, 83, who served during the Korean and Vietnam wars, he was a navigator technician on B-52 bombers for 13 years. Major Francis Walls, 89, who served during the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold wars as part of a military career that spanned from 1948–1973. He worked in aircraft maintenance and was awarded the Bronze Star. Senior Master Sergeant Richard Wellington, 84, who served from 1954–1974 as an electrician, including during the Vietnam war, in both the Navy and Air Force. Mr. Clifford “Yank” Wiltse, who served during the Korean war from 1952–1956. He worked in the Strategic Air Command and the Military Transport Service.

Finally, I would like to honor Mr. Bernard Pachter, 92, who served in the Coast Guard from 1945–1948. With his service starting towards the end of World War II in the Pacific, he was a working medic in Guam, Iwo Jima, and Ulithi, and earned the rank of hospital corpsman second class.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to all of these men and women, and it

is my distinct privilege to honor their service today and welcome them to the Nation’s Capital. ●

#### 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 message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SUDAN AS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13067 OF NOVEMBER 3, 1997—PM 34

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Sudan declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2019.

Despite recent positive developments, the crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067; the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006; and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, Executive Order 13761 of January 13, 2017, and Executive Order 13804 of July 11, 2017, has not been resolved. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared

in Executive Order 13067, as expanded by Executive Order 13400, with respect to Sudan.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 31, 2019.

**TRANSMITTING NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON AS A BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY UNDER THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA)—PM 35**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 506A(a)(3)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(3)(B)), I am providing notice of my intent to terminate the designation of the Republic of Cameroon (Cameroon) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

I am taking this step because I have determined that the Government of Cameroon currently engages in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, contravening the eligibility requirements of section 104 of the AGOA.

Despite intensive engagement between the United States and the Government of Cameroon, Cameroon has failed to address concerns regarding persistent human rights violations being committed by Cameroonian security forces. These violations include extrajudicial killings, arbitrary and unlawful detention, and torture.

Accordingly, I intend to terminate the designation of Cameroon as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under the AGOA as of January 1, 2020. I will continue to assess whether the Government of Cameroon engages in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, in accordance with the AGOA eligibility requirements.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 31, 2019.

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE**

At 10:23 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. 1373. An act to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2181. An act to provide for the withdrawal and protection of certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico.

At 4:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 823. An act to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, 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. 823. An act to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1373. An act to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2181. An act to provide for the withdrawal and protection of certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR**

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

S. 2755. A bill to require a report on the plan to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

**EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

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

EC-3084. A communication from the Chief of the Law Enforcement Division, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Military Police Investigation" ((RIN0702-AB01) (32 CFR Part 637)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3085. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13851 of November 27, 2018, with respect to Nicaragua; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3086. A communication from the Policy Associate Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Leasing (Regulation M)" ((RIN7100-AF59) (Docket No. R-1676)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3087. A communication from the Policy Associate Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" ((RIN7100-AF61) (Docket No. R-1678)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3088. A communication from the Policy Associate Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)" ((RIN7100-AF60) (Docket No. R-1677)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3089. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Utilization of Federal Technology for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3090. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2019-20 and 2020-21 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations" (RIN1018-BC06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3091. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—Cook Inlet Area Regulations" (RIN1018-BB99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3092. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Office of Hearings and Appeals Procedural Regulations" ((RIN1903-AA10) (10 CFR Part 1003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3093. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2019-20 Season" (RIN1018-BD07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3094. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations" (RIN1018-BD10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3095. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Permits; Regulations Concerning a Depredation Order" (RIN1018-BB77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3096. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds" (RIN1018-BD10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3097. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled



“Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation (Delay of Effective Date)” (RIN1018-BC87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3098. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Foskett Speckled Dace from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife” (RIN1018-BC09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3099. A communication from the Fish and Wildlife Administrator, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Assistance: Wildlife Restoration, Sport Fish Restoration, Hunter Education and Safety” (RIN1018-BA33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3100. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Monito Gecko (*Sphaerodactylus micropithecus*) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife” (RIN1018-BB76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3101. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Kirtland’s Warbler from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife” (RIN1018-BC01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3102. A communication from the National Species Status Assessment Team Lead, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Barrens Topminnow” (RIN1018-BC52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 29, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Richard Earnest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Daniel Mack Traynor, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

Jodi W. Dishman, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2756. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate program-related investments by private foundations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. INHOPE):

S. 2757. A bill to waive the imposition of a civil fine for certain first-time paperwork violations by small business concerns; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2758. A bill to impose sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to combat the suppression of the freedoms of speech, association, assembly, procession, and demonstration of the people of Hong Kong, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2759. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP code for Swanzey, New Hampshire; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2760. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to enhance direct certification under the school lunch program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2761. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide that children who have relocated from Puerto Rico to the States are fully considered for purposes of State allotments under the English Language Acquisition grants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2762. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the amount individuals filing jointly can deduct for certain State and local taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2763. A bill to require that internet platforms give users the option to engage with a platform without being manipulated by algorithms driven by user-specific data; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2764. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues that are imported or offered for import are to be regulated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2765. A bill to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2766. A bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2767. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a pilot competitive grant program for improving the sharing of water quality data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 2768. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit smoking on Amtrak trains; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2769. A bill to eliminate or modify certain Federal agency reporting requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TESTER:

S. Res. 391. A resolution reaffirming a strong commitment to the U.S. producers and American-made commodities; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 392. A resolution recognizing the importance of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative to the relationship between the United States and the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and to advancing the policy of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 393. A resolution recognizing the historical, cultural, and religious significance of the 500th birthday of Guru Nanak and the contributions and sacrifices made by Sikhs of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 394. A resolution honoring the members of the military and intelligence community who carried out the mission that killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 395. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 396. A resolution designating October 2019 as “National Health Literacy Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 397. A resolution celebrating the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Act creating the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JONES:

S. Res. 398. A resolution recognizing the National Peanut Festival held annually in

Dothan, Alabama, and the importance of the peanut industry in the State of Alabama and the United States; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. UDALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 399. A resolution designating November 2, 2019, as "National Bison Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HOEVEN, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. Res. 400. A resolution recognizing October 2019 as "National Women's Small Business Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 401. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2019 as Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 402. A resolution honoring the life, work, and legacy of Toni Morrison; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 403. A resolution designating October 2019 as "National Farm to School Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 404. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. Res. 405. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October as "Brain

Health Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 206

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 206, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 283

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement.

S. 377

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prices of prescription drugs furnished under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 457, a bill to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the In-

ternal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to foster security in Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1123, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1218, a bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

S. 1235

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1235, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

S. 1257

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1257, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts to include rollovers for charitable life-income plans for charitable purposes.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1601

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1601, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a child safety alert system, and for other purposes.

S. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1657, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1703

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2020 through 2022 to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through bilateral compacts to increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities and reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

S. 1782

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

S. 1812

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1812, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct research on wildfire smoke, and for other purposes.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide wildfire smoke mitigation assistance to States and units of local government, and for other purposes.

S. 1814

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1814, a bill to authorize the President to declare a smoke emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 1815

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1815, a bill to establish an occupational safety and health standard to protect farmworkers from wildfire smoke, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2026

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2246

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2246, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from

Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to redesignate and expand the Troops-to-Teachers Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2254

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2254, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2491

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2491, a bill to terminate certain rules issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 2570

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2570, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond in recognition of his service to the United States as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

S. 2603

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2603, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to end the immigrant visa backlog, and for other purposes.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2641, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

S. 2671

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives by investing in effective violence reduction initiatives.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, supra.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma

(Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to reduce mass violence, strengthen mental health collaboration in communities, improve school safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2695, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and for other purposes.

S. 2710

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2710, a bill to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

S. 2722

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2722, a bill to prohibit agencies from using Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2740, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 150

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 150, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

S. RES. 376

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 376, a resolution emphasizing the importance of a career, nonpartisan Foreign Service of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 1005

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1005 proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1088

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1088 proposed to

H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1099

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1099 proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1114

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1114 proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1122

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1122 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1130

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1130 proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1135

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1135 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1163

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1163 proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1182

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1182 proposed to

H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1193

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1193 proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1223

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1223 proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2762. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the amount individuals filing jointly can deduct for certain State and local taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill to ensure that the treatment of the State and Local Property Tax deduction, also known as the "SALT deduction," does not unfairly penalize married taxpayers. The SALT Deduction Fairness Act would eliminate the marriage penalty imposed by the current \$10,000 cap on SALT by doubling this amount for married filers.

The SALT deduction has been in the tax code since 1913 when the income tax was first established and is intended to prevent double taxation. The original Senate tax reform bill in 2017 would have eliminated the deduction altogether. During the consideration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, I fought to keep the SALT deduction in the Federal tax code because of the incredible tax burden a complete elimination of this deduction would have imposed on American taxpayers, many of whom pay high taxes on everything from their incomes to their vehicles.

My amendment, which was adopted by the Senate, retained the SALT deduction for up to \$10,000 in State and local taxes such as State income taxes, local property taxes, and vehicle excise taxes. This was especially important to families living in high-tax states like Maine, which not only has one of our Nation's highest tax burdens, but also a relatively low per household income—approximately \$6,300 below the U.S. average. Maintaining the deduction provided important tax relief for those hard-working Mainers who continued to itemize.

But a basic unfairness still exists in the tax code that penalizes married couples. Currently, individual taxpayers can deduct up to \$10,000 in State and local taxes. If two people marry, however, the deduction remains at \$10,000. As a result, a couple could be financially better off not getting married when it comes to the current SALT deduction.

This legislation very simply would remove the marriage penalty by doubling the SALT deduction from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for joint filers. This straightforward change would remove a bias against marriage from the tax code. And, most important, it would help make the dream of home ownership a reality for married couples.

The National Association of Realtors recently wrote to me about the importance of eliminating this marriage penalty, stating, “Homeownership has long been a vital part of the American Dream. Research shows that an overwhelming majority of current renters aspire to own a home, and we know that our Nation’s faith in homeownership has persisted through the Great Recession. For well over a century, our tax system has helped American families in reaching this Dream.”

Mr. President, we should not unfairly penalize American taxpayers for being married. This common sense legislation will fix this undue burden who are penalized for their filing status.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2763. A bill to require that internet platforms give users the option to engage with a platform without being manipulated by algorithms driver by user-specific data; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2763

*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 “Filter Bubble Transparency Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ALGORITHMIC RANKING SYSTEM.**—The term “algorithmic ranking system” means a computational process, including one derived from algorithmic decision-making, machine learning, statistical analysis, or other data processing or artificial intelligence techniques, used to determine the order or manner that a set of information is provided to a user on a covered internet platform, including the ranking of search results, the provision of content recommendations, the display of social media posts, or any other method of automated content selection.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(3) **CONNECTED DEVICE.**—The term “connected device” means a physical object that—

(A) is capable of connecting to the internet, either directly or indirectly through a network, to communicate information at the direction of an individual; and

(B) has computer processing capabilities for collecting, sending, receiving, or analyzing data.

(4) **COVERED INTERNET PLATFORM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “covered internet platform” means any public-facing website, internet application, or mobile application, including a social network site, video sharing service, search engine, or content aggregation service.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—Such term shall not include a platform that—

(i) is wholly owned, controlled, and operated by a person that—

(I) for the most recent 6-month period, did not employ more than 500 employees;

(II) for the most recent 3-year period, averaged less than \$50,000,000 in annual gross receipts; and

(III) collects or processes on an annual basis the personal data of less than 1,000,000 individuals; or

(ii) is operated for the sole purpose of conducting research that is not made for profit either directly or indirectly.

(5) **INPUT-TRANSPARENT ALGORITHM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “input-transparent algorithm” means an algorithmic ranking system that does not use the user-specific data of a user to determine the order or manner that information is furnished to such user on a covered internet platform, unless the user-specific data is expressly provided to the platform by the user for such purpose.

(B) **INCLUSION OF AGE-APPROPRIATE CONTENT FILTERS.**—Such term shall include an algorithmic ranking system that uses user-specific data to determine whether a user is old enough to access age-restricted content on a covered internet platform, provided that the system otherwise meets the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(C) **DATA PROVIDED FOR EXPRESS PURPOSE OF INTERACTION WITH PLATFORM.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), user-specific data that is provided by a user for the express purpose of determining the order or manner that information is furnished to a user on a covered internet platform—

(i) shall include user-supplied search terms, filters, speech patterns (if provided for the purpose of enabling the platform to accept spoken input or selecting the language in which the user interacts with the platform), saved preferences, and the user’s current geographical location;

(ii) shall include data supplied to the platform by the user that expresses the user’s desire that information be furnished to them, such as the social media profiles the user follows, the video channels the user subscribes to, or other sources of content on the platform the user follows;

(iii) shall not include the history of the user’s connected device, including the user’s history of web searches and browsing, geographical locations, physical activity, device interaction, and financial transactions; and

(iv) shall not include inferences about the user or the user’s connected device, without regard to whether such inferences are based on data described in clause (i).

(6) **OPAQUE ALGORITHM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “opaque algorithm” means an algorithmic ranking system that determines the order or manner that information is furnished to a user on a covered internet platform based, in whole or part, on user-specific data that was not expressly provided by the user to the platform for such purpose.

(B) **EXCEPTION FOR AGE-APPROPRIATE CONTENT FILTERS.**—Such term shall not include

an algorithmic ranking system used by a covered internet platform if—

(i) the only user-specific data (including inferences about the user) that the system uses is information relating to the age of the user; and

(ii) such information is only used to restrict a user’s access to content on the basis that the individual is not old enough to access such content.

(7) **SEARCH SYNDICATION CONTRACT; UPSTREAM PROVIDER; DOWNSTREAM PROVIDER.**—

(A) **SEARCH SYNDICATION CONTRACT.**—The term “search syndication contract” means a contract or subcontract for the sale, license, or other right to access an index of web pages on the internet for the purpose of operating an internet search engine.

(B) **UPSTREAM PROVIDER.**—The term “upstream provider” means, with respect to a search syndication contract, the person that grants access to an index of web pages on the internet to a downstream provider under the contract.

(C) **DOWNSTREAM PROVIDER.**—The term “downstream provider” means, with respect to a search syndication contract, the person that receives access to an index of web pages on the internet from an upstream provider under such contract.

(8) **USER-SPECIFIC DATA.**—The term “user-specific data” means information relating to an individual or a specific connected device that would not necessarily be true of every individual or device.

#### SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW USERS TO SEE UNMANIPULATED CONTENT ON INTERNET PLATFORMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, it shall be unlawful—

(1) for any person to operate a covered internet platform that uses an opaque algorithm unless the person complies with the requirements of subsection (b); or

(2) for any upstream provider to grant access to an index of web pages on the internet under a search syndication contract that does not comply with the requirements of subsection (c).

(b) **OPAQUE ALGORITHM REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The requirements of this subsection with respect to a person that operates a covered internet platform that uses an opaque algorithm are the following:

(A) The person provides notice to users of the platform that the platform uses an opaque algorithm that makes inferences based on user-specific data to select the content the user sees. Such notice shall be presented in a clear, conspicuous manner on the platform whenever the user interacts with an opaque algorithm for the first time, and may be a one-time notice that can be dismissed by the user.

(B) The person makes available a version of the platform that uses an input-transparent algorithm and enables users to easily switch between the version of the platform that uses an opaque algorithm and the version of the platform that uses the input-transparent algorithm by selecting a prominently placed icon, which shall be displayed wherever the user interacts with an opaque algorithm.

(2) **NONAPPLICATION TO CERTAIN DOWNSTREAM PROVIDERS.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to an internet search engine if—

(A) the search engine is operated by a downstream provider with fewer than 1,000 employees; and

(B) the search engine uses an index of web pages on the internet to which such provider received access under a search syndication contract.

(c) SEARCH SYNDICATION CONTRACT REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of this subsection with respect to a search syndication contract are that—

(1) as part of the contract, the upstream provider makes available to the downstream provider the same input-transparent algorithm used by the upstream provider for purposes of complying with subsection (b)(1)(B); and

(2) the upstream provider does not impose any additional costs, degraded quality, reduced speed, or other constraint on the functioning of such algorithm when used by the downstream provider to operate an internet search engine relative to the performance of such algorithm when used by the upstream provider to operate an internet search engine.

#### SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

(a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this Act by an operator of a covered internet platform shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

##### (b) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this Act.

(2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any person who violates this Act shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) COMMON CARRIERS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 4, 5(a)(2), or 6 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44, 45(a)(2), 46) or any jurisdictional limitation of the Commission, the Commission shall also enforce this Act, in the same manner provided in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this paragraph, with respect to—

(A) common carriers subject to the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; and

(B) organizations not organized to carry on business for their own profit or that of their members.

(4) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2766. A bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be joined by my friend and colleague from Maryland, Senator CARDIN, to introduce the Girls Leadership, Engagement, and Advocacy in Development, or Girls LEAD, Act. Our legislation would support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world.

Despite comprising over 50 percent of the world's population, women are underrepresented at all levels of public sector decision-making. Recently, Con-

gress has taken steps to combat this issue with new laws, including the Women, Peace, and Security Act and the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act. The Girls LEAD Act will complement these efforts by specifically addressing the civic involvement and leadership of adolescent girls, an area where there is currently a gap in U.S. foreign assistance programming. The United States can help foster a pipeline of adolescent girls who will aspire to assume leadership roles in their communities.

Adolescence is a pivotal time in a girl's life that brings about significant physical, emotional, and social changes. Yet, according to UNESCO, 132 million adolescent girls between the age of 6 and 17 are not enrolled in school. As reported by UNICEF, more than 150 million girls will marry as children by 2030. It is vitally important that girls and young women in childhood are empowered, and that we invest in their leadership potential early so that they can develop pathways to positions of political leadership and civic engagement.

The Girls LEAD Act would combat these terrible statistics by making it the policy of the United States to promote and ensure that all adolescents are able to fully participate in society, and are specifically able to exercise their civil and political rights in their communities and countries. We know that women's political participation results in tangible change for democracies and the United States must continue to be a leader in this arena.

Specifically, our legislation would direct the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to implement a strategy that strengthens adolescent girls' participation in democracy and governance. This strategy would include U.S. foreign assistance programs that focus on increasing adolescent girls' civic and political knowledge, advocacy, leadership, and research skills, while addressing the common barriers that can preclude their participation. The bill would require that this strategy be developed in consultation with civil society, including the participation of adolescent girls.

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for years I have pushed to set aside resources in the annual State Department funding bill for women's leadership and political participation programs, and I have seen first-hand the positive effects of greater political involvement on the part of women here in the United States. I believe our Nation can and must continue its leadership role in empowering women and girls worldwide, and turning more attention to the civic engagement of adolescent girls will help advance that mission.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator CARDIN in supporting the Girls LEAD Act, which will help to improve and create a more secure world now and in the future.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 391—RE-AFFIRMING A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE U.S. PRODUCERS AND AMERICAN-MADE COMMODITIES

Mr. TESTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

##### S. RES. 391

Whereas the U.S. farmers and ranchers raise the best meat in the world;

Whereas Americans should have the right to knowingly buy made in America products; Whereas American farmers, ranchers, workers and consumers benefit from transparency on the origin of food;

Whereas Congress overwhelmingly supported Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 1651) because 87 percent of consumers want to know the country of origin of their meat;

Whereas in 2015, Congress repealed the Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) law for beef and pork, reducing the competitive advantage of products born, raised, and slaughtered in the U.S.;

Whereas there is no standardized definition of the term "truth in labeling", disadvantaging American producers;

Whereas Congress supports American products, and consumers deserve the right to know where their food comes from;

Whereas the United States has the highest phytosanitary standards in the world while other countries place less emphasis on food safety;

Whereas foreign commodities, like beef and pork, are misleadingly labeled "Product of USA" if they are processed or packed in the United States;

Whereas technological advancements make it possible to accurately and efficiently identify the origin of beef and pork without costly segregation of imported and domestic commodities;

Whereas this gives producers and consumers the ability to identify true American products from foreign imported meat; and

Whereas Country-of-Origin labeling is good for farmers, ranchers, workers, and packers, because it allows them to identify their products as born and raised in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports legislation to reinstate Country-of-Origin labeling for pork and beef to allow consumers to make an informed and free choice about where their food comes from.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 392—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND TO ADVANCING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 392

Whereas the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) was created in 2013 to build a cadre of emerging leaders in member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with the goal of fostering regional cooperation and partnership with the United States;

Whereas YSEALI is composed of influential young leaders who are between 18 and 35 years of age from ASEAN countries (Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and Timor-Leste who are making a difference in their communities, countries, and the region;

Whereas 65 percent of the population of the ASEAN region is under 35 years of age, and these 400,000,000 youth will determine the future of the region for decades to come;

Whereas YSEALI aims to further strengthen the enduring partnership between the United States and ASEAN;

Whereas YSEALI encourages its leaders to partner with each other and the United States Government to address common challenges, including economic growth, sustainable development, education, and civic engagement;

Whereas YSEALI academic and professional exchange programs in the United States allow visiting leaders to experience the culture and values of the United States first-hand, while establishing personal and professional ties to experts, institutions, organizations, companies, and local governments in the United States;

Whereas YSEALI exchange visitors, upon returning to their countries, help promote a positive understanding of the United States;

Whereas YSEALI allows United States experts to visit ASEAN countries to share their expertise and work with YSEALI alumni on projects that advance common goals;

Whereas YSEALI programs in the Indo-Pacific region build the capacity of civil society in the fields of human rights, good governance, anti-corruption and transparency, social entrepreneurship, and media literacy, which are key to the Indo-Pacific efforts of the United States Government;

Whereas YSEALI programming increases the visibility of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas, in 5 years, YSEALI has grown into a thriving community of more than 5,000 alumni and more than 140,000 virtual network participants;

Whereas YSEALI alumni are already distinguishing themselves as influential government officials, entrepreneurs, human rights activists, journalists, social entrepreneurs, and educators;

Whereas outstanding YSEALI alumni include 2 Malaysian cabinet ministers and a Pulitzer Prize-winning Burmese journalist imprisoned for investigating human rights violations against the Rohingya;

Whereas YSEALI alumni are valuable partners to embassies and agencies of the United States overseas;

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409; 132 Stat. 5387) (referred to in this preamble as “ARIA”) emphasized the importance of ASEAN to the United States and supported the elevation of the relationship between the United States and ASEAN to a strategic partnership; and

Whereas ARIA authorized \$25,000,000 to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 to support Indo-Pacific young leaders initiatives, including YSEALI, the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Program, and other people-to-people exchange programs that focus on building the capacity of democracy, human rights, and good governance activists in the Indo-Pacific region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the partnership of the United States with young leaders in Southeast Asia;

(2) recognizes the importance of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) in—

(A) advancing the soft power of the United States in Southeast Asia; and

(B) promoting human rights, democracy, and good governance in the Indo-Pacific region;

(3) emphasizes the key role of YSEALI in—

(A) strengthening the relationship of the United States with the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and

(B) elevating the profile and standing of the United States as a main partner in the region;

(4) stresses the importance of YSEALI in building leadership capacity among civil society in ASEAN member states and across Southeast Asia; and

(5) encourages the Department of State to promote the YSEALI program to the maximum extent possible as a valuable tool to advance mutually beneficial cooperation with partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 550TH BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES MADE BY SIKHS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 393

Whereas Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 120 years;

Whereas, during the early 20th century, thousands of Sikhs of the United States worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroad;

Whereas Sikhism is a monotheistic religion and the fifth largest religion in the world, with—

(1) more than 25,000,000 Sikhs worldwide; and

(2) almost 1,000,000 Sikhs in the United States;

Whereas 2019 is the year of the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak, the first of 10 gurus and founders of Sikhism;

Whereas the Gurburab of Guru Nanak—

(1) is 1 of the most important dates on the Sikh calendar; and

(2) is celebrated across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas Vaisakhi, which is 1 of the most historically significant days of the year for Sikhs—

(1) is celebrated on April 14; and

(2) is the day on which Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Guru of Sikhism, created the Warrior Saint tradition of the volunteer soldier known as “Khalsa”;

Whereas the Sikh place of worship is known as Gurdwara Sahib, and there are more than 500 Gurdwaras Sahib across the United States;

Whereas a hallmark of Sikh values and tradition is the community kitchen in every Gurdwara, known as the “Langar”, where food is served, for free, to all visitors to the Gurdwara regardless of faith, religion, or background;

Whereas Sikh men and women have contributed to the society of the United States

since the initial arrival of Sikhs in the United States in the late 1800s;

Whereas Sikhs of the United States pursue diverse professions that add to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including—

(1) by serving as members of the Armed Forces; and

(2) by making significant contributions to agriculture, information technology, other technology, small businesses, the hospitality industry, trucking, and medicine;

Whereas Sikhs of the United States served in the United States military during the World Wars;

Whereas Sikhs stand for—

(1) equality of gender; and

(2) equality of race; and

(3) freedom of faith;

Whereas Hoosier Sikhs are 1 of the fastest growing business communities in Indiana;

Whereas Sikhs of the United States distinguish themselves by fostering respect among all people through faith and service;

Whereas Sikhism preaches a message of devotion, truthful living, equality of mankind, and social justice;

Whereas the Senate is committed to providing education to the people of the United States about—

(1) the religions of the world;

(2) the value of religious diversity;

(3) tolerance grounded in the principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(4) a culture of mutual understanding; and

(5) the importance of reducing violence; and

Whereas the Senate seeks to further diversity in the Senate community and afford all people of the United States the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Sikhs of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the historical, cultural, and religious significance of the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak;

(B) the contributions and sacrifices made by Sikhs of the United States; and

(C) the discrimination that Sikhs of the United States have faced in the United States and around the world; and

(2) expresses respect for all Sikhs who practice their faith.

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHO CARRIED OUT THE MISSION THAT KILLED ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 394

Whereas the world’s number one wanted terrorist, Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri, also referred to by his nom de guerre Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed after years of relentless pursuit by the United States;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump stated, “Capturing or killing Baghdadi has been the top national security priority of my Administration,” and “The world is now a much safer place.”;

Whereas, on October 26, 2019, members of the United States Special Operations Command flawlessly executed a daring and complex nighttime raid coordinated with numerous partners to assault the compound in

which Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was residing, ultimately leading to his demise;

Whereas Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said of the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, “This is a devastating blow. This is not just their leader, it’s their founder. He was an inspirational leader in many ways. He formed ISIS in 2014, he led to establishing the physical caliphate throughout the region, so this is a major blow to them.”; and

Whereas, although all members of the raid force were able to return to a safe location following the operation, two service members suffered minor injuries and one military working dog was also injured: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) declares that the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi represents a measure of justice and relief for the innumerable victims of ISIS;

(2) commends the men and women and military working dogs of the United States Armed Forces and the United States intelligence community for their flawless plan and execution to capture or kill the ISIS leader;

(3) commends the President for ordering the successful operation to locate and eliminate Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi;

(4) recognizes the support from our allies and partners, including the Syrian Kurds, for assisting with executing this daring raid; and

(5) reaffirms its commitment to disrupting, dismantling, and defeating ISIS and affiliated radical Islamic terrorist organizations around the world that threaten United States national security, eliminating safe havens for terrorists, and bringing terrorists to justice.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 395—RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 395

Whereas, on November 4, 1979, 66 United States diplomats, military personnel, and civilians were taken hostage from the United States Embassy in Tehran by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in what became known as the Iran Hostage Crisis;

Whereas 13 of the 66 American hostages were released by November 20, 1979;

Whereas 8 members of the United States Armed Forces died in an attempt to rescue the hostages on April 25, 1980;

Whereas another American hostage was released on July 11, 1980, after 250 days in captivity;

Whereas, after 444 days in captivity, the remaining 52 hostages were released on January 20, 1981, with the signing of the Algiers Accords;

Whereas the Iran Hostages were subjected to mock executions and other forms of physical and emotional torture at the hands of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas the Iran Hostages and their families still suffer from the events of the Iran Hostage Crisis;

Whereas the Algiers Accords prevented the Iran Hostages from taking legal action to pursue compensation from the Islamic Republic of Iran for their time in captivity;

Whereas many of the Iran Hostages and their families finally became eligible to receive compensation through the enactment in 2015 of the Justice for United States Vic-

tims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144) and the creation of the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund; and

Whereas, 40 years after its founding, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to promulgate a culture of fear, oppression, and violence as one of the leading state sponsors of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis;

(2) honors the suffering of the Iran Hostages and their families during the Iran Hostage Crisis, as well as the sacrifices made by those who attempted to rescue the hostages; and

(3) supports the designation of a national day of remembrance on November 4, 2019, for the Iran Hostage Crisis.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 396—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL HEALTH LITERACY MONTH”

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 396

Whereas health literacy is the degree to which individuals can obtain and understand basic health information in order to make informed health decisions;

Whereas, according to the latest national assessment of health literacy, a majority of adults have intermediate health literacy, while more than 75,000,000 adults have basic or below basic health literacy;

Whereas language and cultural differences can affect health literacy and thereby lower effective health communication between providers and patients;

Whereas, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, low health literacy is associated with higher rates of emergency care use, increased hospitalizations, and, among seniors, higher mortality;

Whereas the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality also found that low health literacy can be associated with a lack of medication adherence;

Whereas experts estimate that the annual cost of low health literacy to the United States economy is between \$106,000,000,000 and \$238,000,000,000;

Whereas mental health literacy may lead to better outcomes for individuals with mental disorders, particularly individuals with suicidal ideation, either by facilitating early help-seeking by those individuals or helping others identify early signs of mental disorders and seek help on behalf of those individuals;

Whereas health literacy can assist in preventing disease and illness, increasing life expectancy, improving patient care and outcomes, and reducing health care costs;

Whereas, in 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy that establishes 7 goals; and

Whereas advocacy organizations have recognized the month of October as “National Health Literacy Month” to increase awareness about the importance of making health information easy to understand: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2019 as “National Health Literacy Month”;

(2) encourages individuals to assess and improve their health knowledge and literacy;

(3) recommends that health care providers deliver health services in a clear and comprehensive manner; and

(4) encourages all interested parties to promote the importance of health literacy.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 397—CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE MIKE MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP ACT CREATING THE MIKE MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 397

Whereas the distinguished tenure of Mike Mansfield as Majority Leader of the Senate spanned 16 years, making him the longest serving Majority Leader in the history of the Senate;

Whereas Mike Mansfield served as the United States Ambassador to Japan from 1977 to 1988, the longest tenure of any United States ambassador anywhere in the world;

Whereas, while serving as Ambassador, Mike Mansfield was fond of reminding the people of the United States and Japan that the “U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none”;

Whereas, in 1994, through the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Act (Public Law 103-236; 108 Stat. 428), Congress authorized the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program to build a corps of Federal Government employees (in this preamble referred to as “Mansfield Fellows”) knowledgeable about the language, culture, economy, and politics of Japan, so as to enhance mutual cooperation and understanding between the United States and Japan;

Whereas the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State provides financial support to make possible the deployment of Mansfield Fellows and their families to Japan, and the Government of Japan provides generous in-kind support, including a 2-month home-stay and language training;

Whereas the first cohort of Mansfield Fellows, recruited from across the Federal Government, began their service in Japan on September 1, 1996;

Whereas the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program has created a robust network of officials from the Governments of the United States and Japan with deep understanding of the economic, political, and strategic dimensions of the United States-Japan relationship who work together to advance the mutual interests of the United States and Japan;

Whereas Mansfield Fellows have served in 52 ministries and agencies of the Government of Japan, dozens of Diet offices, and more than a dozen private sector companies and nongovernmental organizations in Japan;

Whereas alumni of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program are currently employed throughout the Federal Government, including the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Departments of State, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Transportation, and the Treasury, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as serving in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps;

Whereas, every day, Mansfield Fellows are drawing on their experience to enhance United States-Japan bilateral relations and



to strengthen United States-Japan cooperation around the world to tackle common global challenges;

Whereas, on April 29, 2015, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, declared before a Joint Session of the United States Congress that the United States and Japan have forged “an alliance of hope” resting on a foundation of shared democratic values and common interests; and

Whereas the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program has been a cornerstone of United States-Japan cooperation and has made important contributions to strengthening security, economic, and cultural ties between the 2 allies; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Act (Public Law 103-236; 108 Stat. 428) creating the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program;

(2) remembers the contributions of Senator Mike Mansfield and his wife Maureen to the United States Senate and to the United States-Japan alliance;

(3) thanks more than 150 alumni of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program for bringing the expertise garnered during their time in Japan back to the United States Government to advance the interests of the United States;

(4) conveys its appreciation to the people of Japan for the warm welcome they have given to each class of Mansfield Fellows;

(5) commends the Government of Japan for opening its doors to Mansfield Fellows and for providing steadfast and generous support to the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program; and

(6) encourages the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and the Government of Japan to sustain their support for the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program, which in turn strengthens the “alliance of hope” and the important work of the program to further peace, stability, and prosperity in the world.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 398—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL PEANUT FESTIVAL HELD ANNUALLY IN DOTHAN, ALABAMA, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PEANUT INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. JONES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 398

Whereas Dr. George Washington Carver, an African-American scientist, inventor, educator, and former slave—

(1) proposed the planting of peanuts and soybeans to restore nitrogen to soil left barren from cotton production;

(2) invented more than 300 products made from peanuts; and

(3) became the first guest speaker in the history of the National Peanut Festival;

Whereas the Incas of Peru began cultivating peanuts as early as 1500 B.C., and peanuts were spread from South America to Spain, Asia, and Africa;

Whereas, in the 1700s, Africans were the first to introduce peanuts to North Americans;

Whereas, beginning in the early 1800s, the steady growth of peanut production allowed peanuts to transition from being a food primarily for livestock and the poor to a high-protein and well-liked source of food for soldiers during the Civil War;

Whereas, in the early 1900s, demand for peanuts grew due to advances in harvesting and production methods that made peanuts and peanut products more easily available;

Whereas Dr. Carver recommended peanuts as a crop to rival the top commercial position of Southern cotton, following the near destruction of the cotton crop due to the boll weevil;

Whereas, in 1938, the first National Peanut Festival was held in Dothan, Alabama;

Whereas, as a result of his instrumental work in promoting the peanut in the Wiregrass area of the State of Alabama, Dr. Carver was invited to serve as the first guest speaker at the National Peanut Festival;

Whereas 2 awards were established at the first National Peanut Festival—

(1) the Miss Peanut Award, first won by Elizabeth Johnson from Headland, Alabama; and

(2) the Volunteer of the Year Award, named in honor of the first president of the National Peanut Festival, Harry P. Hall, and awarded annually since its establishment;

Whereas the National Peanut Festival has become an established event over the past 81 years and became a nonprofit organization in 1952 through a resolution passed by the local chamber of commerce;

Whereas, in 1996, the statue of Dr. Carver in Dothan, Alabama, was dedicated to honor the famed peanut pioneer and first guest speaker at the National Peanut Festival;

Whereas, in 2010, the National Peanut Festival moved to its current location at the fairgrounds on US Highway 231 South in Dothan, Alabama;

Whereas peanuts remain a significant cash crop grown in the United States that is valued at more than \$1,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas children and adults in the United States consume an average of 6 pounds of peanut products, including snack nuts and candy, per person each year;

Whereas, each year, individuals in the United States consume approximately 133,000,000 metric tons of peanut oil, a high-quality cooking oil;

Whereas approximately half of all peanuts grown in the United States originate within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, Alabama; and

Whereas, in 2018, peanut farmers in Alabama, of which there are close to 900—

(1) produced runner peanuts, the variety of peanut that makes up 80 percent of all peanut production in the United States;

(2) harvested 189,000 acres of peanuts; and

(3) produced 400,000,000 pounds of peanuts valued at approximately \$118,000,000: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the National Peanut Festival held in Dothan, Alabama, is of remarkable importance to the State of Alabama, the United States, and the peanut industry due to—

(1) the attendance of approximately 200,000 fairgoers over the course of a 10-day event;

(2) the economic impact of the National Peanut Festival to the town of Dothan, Alabama; and

(3) the celebration in the National Peanut Festival of one of the most important, useful, and well-loved cash crops in the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 399—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2, 2019, AS “NATIONAL BISON DAY”**

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. UDALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN,

Mr. THUNE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 399

Whereas on May 9, 2016, the North American bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States;

Whereas bison are considered a historical symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison were integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian Tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are more than 60 Indian Tribes participating in the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which is a Tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (25 U.S.C. 5124);

Whereas numerous members of Indian Tribes are involved in bison restoration on Tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian Tribes have a combined herd of bison on more than 1,000,000 acres of Tribal land;

Whereas bison can play an important role in improving the types of grasses found in landscapes to the benefit of grasslands;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2017, the Department of Agriculture estimates that 182,780 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas a small group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remaining bison of the diminished herds;

Whereas on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 captive-bred bison from the New York Zoological Park, now known as the “Bronx Zoo”, to the first big game refuge in the United States, now known as the “Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge”;

Whereas, in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, managers from Indian Tribes, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

Whereas there are bison herds in national wildlife refuges, national parks, and national forests, and on other Federal land;

Whereas there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;

Whereas private, public, and Tribal bison leaders are working together to continue bison restoration throughout North America;

Whereas there is a growing effort to celebrate and officially recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the North American bison to the heritage of the United States; and

Whereas members of Indian Tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners have celebrated the annual National Bison Day since 2012 and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2, 2019, the first Saturday of November, as “National Bison Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 400—RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL WOMEN’S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH”

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HOEVEN, and Ms. MCSALLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 400

Whereas the National Women’s Business Council has declared October 2019 “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

Whereas there are more than 12,900,000 women-owned small businesses in the United States;

Whereas women-owned small businesses generate \$1,900,000,000,000 in total receipts, which is a 21 percent increase since 2014;

Whereas the growth rate for women-owned employer firms is more than double the growth rate of all other small businesses;

Whereas, in comparison to 2014, there are nearly 2,250,000 additional women-owned employer firms and nearly 700,000 additional jobs;

Whereas Congress continues to support the National Women’s Business Council and its focus on alleviating obstacles women face as business owners and entrepreneurs;

Whereas the celebration of “National Women’s Small Business Month” would—

(1) honor women small business owners and women entrepreneurs; and

(2) recognize the significance of the contributions of women to the small business community: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes October 2019 as “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(2) honors the vital role of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs in the United States during “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(3) recognizes the significant contributions of women small business owners and women

entrepreneurs to the small business community;

(4) supports and encourages young women entrepreneurs to pursue their passions and create more start-up businesses;

(5) recognizes the importance of creating policies that promote a business-friendly environment for small business owners that is free of unnecessary and burdensome regulations and red tape; and

(6) supports efforts to—

(A) encourage consumers to shop locally; and

(B) increase awareness of the value of locally-owned small businesses and the impact of women-owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 401—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019 AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF FILIPINO AMERICANS AND THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 401

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to the history of the United States by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino American community is the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States, with a population of approximately 4,000,000;

Whereas, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have a longstanding history of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas more than 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas a guarantee to pay back the service of Filipinos through veterans benefits was reversed by the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79-301; 60 Stat. 6) and the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79-391; 60 Stat. 221), which provided that the wartime service of members of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines and the new Philippine Scouts shall not be deemed to have been active service and, therefore, those members did not qualify for certain benefits;

Whereas 26,000 Filipino World War II veterans were granted United States citizenship

as a result of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-649; 104 Stat. 4978), which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 29, 1990;

Whereas, on February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5; 123 Stat. 115), which established the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to compensate Filipino World War II veterans for their service to the United States;

Whereas, since June 8, 2016, the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program has allowed Filipino World War II veterans and certain family members to be reunited more expeditiously than the immigrant visa process allowed at that time, but, on August 2, 2019, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced its intention to terminate the program;

Whereas, on December 14, 2016, President Barack Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-265; 130 Stat. 1376) to award Filipino veterans who fought alongside troops of the United States in World War II the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress;

Whereas, on October 25, 2017, the Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Filipino World War II veterans in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Building, a recognition for which the veterans had waited for more than 70 years;

Whereas Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that may be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces, and continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the late Thelma Garcia Buchholdt, born in Claveria, Cagayan, on the island of Luzon in the Philippines—

(1) moved with her family to Alaska in 1965;

(2) was elected to the House of Representatives of Alaska in 1974;

(3) was the first Filipino woman elected to a State legislature; and

(4) authored a comprehensive history book entitled “Filipinos in Alaska: 1788-1958”;

Whereas Filipino American farmworkers and labor leaders, such as Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong, played an integral role in the multiethnic United Farm Workers movement, alongside Cesar Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers;

Whereas Filipino Americans play an integral role in the healthcare system of the United States as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;

Whereas Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the United States;

Whereas, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have largely been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of the history of the United States;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill—

(1) the significance of education, complemented by the richness of Filipino American ethnicity; and

(2) the value of the Filipino American legacy; and

Whereas it is essential to promote the understanding, education, and appreciation of the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October 2019 as—  
(A) a testament to the advancement of Filipino Americans;

(B) a time to reflect on and remember the many notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States; and

(C) a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture so as to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about Filipino Americans and to appreciate the historic contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 402—HONORING THE LIFE, WORK, AND LEGACY OF TONI MORRISON

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

##### S. RES. 402

Whereas Toni Morrison, born Chloe Ardelia Wofford on February 18, 1931, in Lorain, Ohio, to George Wofford and Ramah Willis Wofford, was a pioneering novelist, writer, editor, and professor;

Whereas Toni Morrison graduated from Lorain High School in Lorain, Ohio, with honors in 1949;

Whereas, in 1953, Toni Morrison graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., with a bachelor of arts degree in English and a minor in Classics;

Whereas, in 1955, Toni Morrison graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, with a master of arts degree in English;

Whereas, in 1955, Toni Morrison became a professor at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas;

Whereas, from 1957 to 1964, Toni Morrison taught at Howard University in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas, from 1965 to 1968, Toni Morrison was a senior editor with textbook publisher L.W. Singer in Syracuse, New York;

Whereas, from 1968 to 1983, Toni Morrison was the first African-American woman senior editor in the history of Random House, Inc., in New York City;

Whereas, in 1970, Holt, Rhinehart and Winston published “The Bluest Eye”, the first novel by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 1973, Knopf published the novel “Sula” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 1975, Toni Morrison received the Ohioana Book Award for “Sula”, which was also nominated for the American Book Award;

Whereas, from 1975 to 1977, Toni Morrison was a visiting professor at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut;

Whereas, in 1977, Knopf published the novel “Song of Solomon” by Toni Morrison, which was chosen as a Book-of-the-Month selection the same year;

Whereas, in 1978, Toni Morrison received, for “Song of Solomon”—

(1) the National Book Critics Circle Award;

(2) the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award;

(3) the Oscar Micheaux Award; and

(4) the Cleveland Arts Prize for Literature;

Whereas, in 1979, Toni Morrison was awarded the Barnard Medal of Distinction from Barnard College in New York City;

Whereas, from 1979 to 1980, Toni Morrison was a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York;

Whereas, in 1980, Toni Morrison was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the National Council on the Arts, a position Morrison held through 1987;

Whereas, in 1981—

(1) Knopf published the novel “Tar Baby” by Toni Morrison; and

(2) Toni Morrison—

(A) was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters; and

(B) received the Langston Hughes Award from the City College of New York in New York City;

Whereas, in 1983, “Recitatif”, the only short story by Toni Morrison, was published in “Confirmations: An Anthology of African American Women Writers”;

Whereas, from 1983 to 1984, Toni Morrison was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey;

Whereas, from 1984 to 1989, Toni Morrison was the Schweitzer Professor of the Humanities, College of the Humanities and Fine Arts, at State University of New York in Albany, New York;

Whereas, in 1985, Toni Morrison joined the board of trustees of the New York Public Library;

Whereas, in 1986, Toni Morrison wrote “Dreaming Emmett”, an unpublished play commissioned by the New York State Writers Institute, for which Morrison received the New York State Governor’s Arts Award the same year;

Whereas, in 1987, Knopf published the novel “Beloved” by Toni Morrison, a portrait of a woman haunted by the legacy of slavery in post-Civil War Ohio, for which Morrison received the Anisfield Wolf Book Award in Race Relations in 1988;

Whereas, in 1988, Toni Morrison—

(1) won the Pulitzer Prize for “Beloved”;

(2) received, for “Beloved”—

(A) the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award;

(B) the Melcher Book Award; and

(C) the Elmer Holmes Bobst Award for

Fiction;

(3) received the Ohioana Career Medal

Award; and

(4) delivered the Robert C. Tanner Lecture on Human Values at the University of Michigan;

Whereas, from 1989 to 2006, Toni Morrison was the Robert F. Goheen Professor in the Council of the Humanities at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey, where she was recognized with emeritus status in 2006;

Whereas, in 1990, Toni Morrison delivered—

(1) the Massey Lectures at Harvard University;

(2) the first Chazen Lecture at the University of Wisconsin;

(3) a Charter Lecture at the University of Georgia; and

(4) the Clark Lectures at Trinity College in Cambridge, England;

Whereas, in 1991, Toni Morrison was awarded the Rosenberger Medal at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas, in 1992—

(1) Knopf published the novel “Jazz” by Toni Morrison;

(2) Pantheon published “Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power: Essays on Anita Hill, Clarence Thomas, and the Construction of Social Reality”, a collection edited by Toni Morrison; and

(3) Harvard University Press published

“Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 1993, Toni Morrison—

(1) received the honor of Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, a prestigious award for distinguished contributions to French and world culture;

(2) became the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature for being an author “who in novels characterized by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality”;

(3) wrote the lyrics for the song cycle “Honey and Rue” with composer André Previn for Kathleen Battle, a work commissioned by Carnegie Hall; and

(4) founded the Princeton Atelier, a studio arts program at Princeton University that brings together students and visiting artists to explore the collaborative creative process;

Whereas, in 1994, Toni Morrison—

(1) received—

(A) the Condorcet Medal from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, France; and

(B) the Pearl Buck Award from the Pearl Buck Foundation;

(2) held the International Condorcet Chair at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the College de France in Paris, France; and

(3) wrote lyrics for “Four Songs” with composer André Previn, which was performed by Sylvia McNair at Carnegie Hall;

Whereas, in 1996, Toni Morrison—

(1) was awarded the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters in New York City;

(2) was named the Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities by the National Endowment for the Humanities; and

(3) delivered the keynote address at the 250th Anniversary Convocation of Princeton University;

Whereas, in 1997, Toni Morrison—

(1) co-edited “Birth of a Nation”hood: Gaze, Script, and Spectacle in the O.J. Simpson Case”, a collection of essays on the O.J. Simpson case published by Pantheon; and

(2) wrote the lyrics for “Sweet Talk” with composer Richard Danielpour, which was performed by Jessye Norman at Carnegie Hall;

Whereas, from 1997 to 2003, Toni Morrison was the A.D. White Professor-At-Large at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York;

Whereas, in 1998—

(1) Knopf published the novel “Paradise” by Toni Morrison; and

(2) Toni Morrison wrote the lyrics for “Spirits in the Well” with composer Richard Danielpour, which was performed by Jessye Norman at Avery Fisher Hall;

Whereas, in 1998—

(1) the audio book “Beloved”, which was recorded by Toni Morrison, received a Grammy nomination for Best Spoken Word Album; and

(2) Toni Morrison delivered—

(A) the Moffitt Lecture at Princeton University; and

(B) the Berliner Lektionen at the Theater Berlin;

Whereas, in 1999, Toni Morrison—

(1) received the Ohioana Book Award for Fiction; and

(2) co-authored with her son, Slade Morrison, “The Big Box”, which was published by Hyperion;

Whereas, in 2000, Toni Morrison—

(1) wrote the lyrics for “woman.life.song” with composer Judith Weir, which was performed by Jessye Norman at Carnegie Hall; and

(2) was awarded the National Humanities Medal;

Whereas, in 2001, Toni Morrison—

(1) received—

(A) the Pell Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts; and

(B) the Cavore Prize in Turin, Italy;

Whereas, in 1993, Toni Morrison—

(1) received the honor of Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, a prestigious award for distinguished contributions to French and world culture;

(2) became the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature for being an author “who in novels characterized by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality”;

(3) wrote the lyrics for the song cycle “Honey and Rue” with composer André Previn for Kathleen Battle, a work commissioned by Carnegie Hall; and

(4) founded the Princeton Atelier, a studio arts program at Princeton University that brings together students and visiting artists to explore the collaborative creative process;

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(A) the Condorcet Medal from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, France; and

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(1) wrote the lyrics for “woman.life.song” with composer Judith Weir, which was performed by Jessye Norman at Carnegie Hall; and

(2) was awarded the National Humanities Medal;

Whereas, in 2001, Toni Morrison—

(1) received—

(A) the Pell Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts; and

(B) the Cavore Prize in Turin, Italy;

(2) was honored at the Fete du Livre organized by Les Ecritures Croisées at the Cité du Livre in Aix-en-Provence, France; and

(3) delivered a lecture at a lecture series sponsored by the United Nations Secretary General;

Whereas, in 2002, Toni Morrison—

(1) delivered the Alexander Lectures at the University of Toronto; and

(2) wrote the libretto for “Margaret Garner” with composer Richard Danielpour, an opera that was co-commissioned by—

(A) the Michigan Opera Theatre;

(B) the Cincinnati Opera; and

(C) the Opera Company of Philadelphia;

Whereas, in 2003—

(1) Toni Morrison received the Docteur Honoris Causa from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, France; and

(2) Knopf published the novel “Love” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 2004, Toni Morrison—

(1) delivered the Amnesty International Lecture in Edinburgh, Scotland;

(2) received the “Arts and Communities” award from the Academy of Culture in Paris, France; and

(3) received the Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Fiction from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;

Whereas, in 2005, Toni Morrison—

(1) received—

(A) the Du Bois Medal from the W.E.B. DuBois Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and

(B) the Coretta Scott King Award from the American Library Association; and

(2) was awarded a doctor of letters from Oxford University in Oxford, England;

Whereas, in 2006—

(1) the New York Times rated “Beloved” by Toni Morrison as the “Best Work of American Fiction of the Last 25 Years”; and

(2) Toni Morrison—

(A) through the “Grand Invité” program of the Musée du Louvre in Paris, France, was the Guest Curator of the Musée du Louvre; and

(B) was named a Life Trustee of the New York Public Library;

Whereas, in 2007, Toni Morrison was awarded—

(1) the Docteur Honoris Causa from the Université Paris Sorbonne – Paris IV in Paris, France; and

(2) the Radcliffe Institute Medal from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts;

Whereas, in 2008, Knopf published the novel “A Mercy” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 2010, Toni Morrison received the Chevalier Ordre National de la Légion d’honneur, the highest national order of merit in France;

Whereas, in 2011, Toni Morrison wrote the play “Desdemona”, which premiered in Vienna, Austria;

Whereas, in 2012—

(1) Toni Morrison delivered the Ingersoll Lecture at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts;

(2) Knopf published the novel “Home” by Toni Morrison; and

(3) President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, to Toni Morrison for her literary work and legacy as “one of our nation’s most celebrated novelists”;

Whereas, in 2014, Toni Morrison received the Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle;

Whereas, in 2015, Knopf published the novel “God Help the Child” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 2016—

(1) Toni Morrison was the Charles E. Norton Professor at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts;

(2) the American Academy of Arts and Sciences awarded Toni Morrison the Emerson-Thoreau Medal for “her distinguished achievement in the field of literature”; and

(3) Toni Morrison received the PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction;

Whereas, in 2017—

(1) Harvard University Press published “The Origin of Others” by Toni Morrison, which was based on the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures presented by Morrison at Harvard University in 2016;

(2) Toni Morrison delivered the keynote address at the Princeton Slavery Project Symposium; and

(3) Princeton University dedicated the naming of Morrison Hall in honor of Toni Morrison, who was the Robert F. Goheen Professor in the Humanities, Emeritus, at Princeton University;

Whereas, in 2019—

(1) Knopf published “The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations” by Toni Morrison; and

(2) the American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded Toni Morrison a Gold Medal for distinguished achievement in the field of literature;

Whereas the invaluable contributions of Toni Morrison to literature in the United States during a career that spanned more than 5 decades will inform generations of authors, scholars, teachers, and students in the United States and around the world; and

Whereas, on August 5, 2019, at the age of 88, Toni Morrison died, leaving a legacy of a visionary literature that—

(1) is extraordinary for the freshness of its narrative strategies and procedures; and

(2) is dedicated to dramatizing the complex humanity and art of Black people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends heartfelt sympathy to the family of Toni Morrison on the occasion of her death;

(2) recognizes Toni Morrison as—

(A) one of the most formidable scholars, educators, and authors of the United States; and

(B) a writer of the stature of other great literary figures of the United States, such as—

(i) Nathaniel Hawthorne;

(ii) Ralph Waldo Emerson;

(iii) Herman Melville;

(iv) Walt Whitman;

(v) Mark Twain; and

(vi) William Faulkner;

(3) honors the life of Toni Morrison and the achievements of Toni Morrison in humanities and literature; and

(4) expresses deep appreciation for the exceptional and vital work of Toni Morrison, including—

(A) the vehemence of the work;

(B) the uncensored exploration of race in the United States that the work presented; and

(C) the enduring impact the work has had, and will continue to have, on the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 403—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH”

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 403

Whereas farm to school programs of varying scale operate in nearly 43,000 schools across the United States;

Whereas farm to school programs connect schools and local farms in order to—

(1) serve nutritious meals in school cafeterias; and

(2) support local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen;

Whereas farm to school programs include experiential education components that can lead to permanent improvements in the diets of children, both in school and at home;

Whereas farm to school programs facilitate the purchase of local food for school meals;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit small and mid-sized agricultural producers by providing access to consistent markets;

Whereas farm to school programs can be particularly important for beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers, as schools provide a consistent and secure customer base;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit local economies;

Whereas for every \$1 spent on local foods in schools, up to an additional \$2 circulates in the local economy;

Whereas data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that only 7 percent of children consume the recommended amount of vegetables;

Whereas communities with high levels of poverty have less access to fresh fruits and vegetables than higher income communities;

Whereas the increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is 1 of 6 major strategies to prevent and control obesity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas studies have demonstrated that children in schools with an active farm to school program increase their average consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by 1 or more servings per day;

Whereas farm to school programs—

(1) are popular among children;

(2) can increase interest in school meal programs; and

(3) can decrease food waste; and

Whereas October 2019 would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Farm to School Month”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2019 as “National Farm to School Month”;

(2) recognizes support for policy improvements to farm to school programs in legislation reauthorizing child nutrition programs;

(3) encourages schools and local educational agencies to use local farm products in meals; and

(4) encourages schools, farmers and farm groups, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, State governments, and other local groups to raise awareness of farm to school efforts in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 404—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WORK IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND CONTINUE TO EXERCISE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL,

Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

## S. RES. 404

Whereas the consensus among climatologists and scientists studying the effects of atmospheric change, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the National Academy of Science, the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and other agencies within the United States Global Change Research Program, have determined that the impact of climate change will include widespread effects on health and welfare, including increased outbreaks from waterborne diseases, more droughts, diminished agricultural production, severe storms and floods, heat waves, wildfires, and a substantial rise in global sea levels;

Whereas the objective of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system;

Whereas, under the UNFCCC, the United States is obligated to report its progress on reducing emissions;

Whereas the Senate provided its advice and consent to the UNFCCC by division, with two-thirds of Senators present voting in the affirmative, on October 7, 1992;

Whereas, in 2011, at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the UNFCCC in Durban, South Africa, parties agreed to negotiate an agreement by the end of 2015 to reduce emissions in the post-2020 period;

Whereas the UNFCCC calls on parties to submit intended nationally determined contributions outlining voluntary individual targets for emissions reductions by the time parties convened in Paris on November 30, 2015, for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UNFCCC;

Whereas, prior to completing the multilateral Paris Agreement on international cooperation to address climate change, done at Paris December 12, 2015, 187 nations, representing more than 97 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, voluntarily submitted nationally determined goals and plans to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution;

Whereas, according to research and data analysis conducted independently by NOAA, NASA, the Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Science and Services of the United Kingdom, the Japan Meteorological Agency, and Berkeley Earth, each of the years 2014 through 2018 rank among the five warmest years on record;

Whereas, according to NASA, 18 of the 19 warmest years on record have occurred since 2000;

Whereas, according to NOAA, 2019 will likely be the second warmest year on record, making the last six years the warmest years on record;

Whereas the United States-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change of November 2014 included a United States goal to reduce its emissions by 26–28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 and a Chinese goal to peak emis-

sions output by 2030 and increase the use of non-fossil fuels to 20 percent of its overall energy portfolio by 2030;

Whereas, under the United States-India Joint Announcement on Climate and Clean Energy of January 2015, the two countries pledged to increase cooperation on clean energy financing and development and India committed to phase out use of hydrofluorocarbons and increase promotion of energy efficiency tools and reaffirmed its commitment to add 100 gigawatts of solar capacity by 2022;

Whereas small island states, whose people are among the most vulnerable to climate change, are threatened with partial or virtually total inundation by imminent rises in sea level and increased intensity and frequency of storms;

Whereas United States international leadership on the global stage throughout the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of Parties process resulted in unprecedented international cooperation and engagement on the development of the Paris Agreement;

Whereas the Paris Agreement received consensus approval from the more than 190 delegates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of Parties;

Whereas the Paris Agreement reached its thresholds for entry into force faster than any other multilateral international agreement of comparable size and scope;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, 187 of the 197 parties to the Paris Agreement have officially joined the agreement, demonstrating the urgency and importance the global community places on addressing climate change;

Whereas studies conducted by the NASA Earth Observatory determined that as the oceans have warmed, polar ice has melted and porous landmasses have subsided, global mean sea level has risen by 8 inches (20 centimeters) since 1870, and the rate of sea level rise is faster now than at any time in the past 2,000 years, having doubled in the past two decades, putting 55 to 60 percent of United States citizens who live in counties touching the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Great Lakes at risk from the effects of sea level rise;

Whereas the Department of Defense has identified climate change as a “threat multiplier” that will increase global instability and conflict, with the potential to increase terrorism;

Whereas the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review states that “[t]he impacts of climate change may increase the frequency, scale, and complexity of future missions, including defense support to civil authorities, while at the same time undermining the capacity of our domestic installations to support training activities,” and notes that—

(1) climate change may exacerbate water scarcity and lead to sharp increases in food costs;

(2) the pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world; and

(3) these effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions—conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence;

Whereas the Department of Defense report, “National Security Implications of Climate-Related Risks and a Changing Climate”—

(1) states that global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for United States national security interests over the foreseeable future because it will aggravate

existing problems, such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, intellectual leadership, and weak political institutions, that threaten domestic stability in a number of countries; and

(2) identifies four general areas of climate-related risks: persistently recurring conditions such as flooding, drought, and higher temperatures; more frequent and more severe extreme weather events; sea level rise and temperature changes; and decreases in Arctic ice cover, type, and thickness;

Whereas the Director of National Intelligence's 2017 Global Trends Report determined that—

(1) changes in the climate will produce more extreme weather events and put greater stress on humans and critical systems, including oceans, freshwater, and biodiversity;

(2) these changes, in turn, will have direct and indirect social, economic, political, and security effects; and

(3) extreme weather can trigger crop failures, wildfires, energy blackouts, infrastructure breakdown, supply chain breakdowns, migration, and infectious disease outbreaks, and will be more pronounced as people concentrate in climate vulnerable locations, such as cities, coastal areas, and water-stressed regions;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture has determined that climate change is likely to diminish continued progress on global food security through production disruptions that lead to local availability limitations and price increases, interrupted transport conduits, and diminished food safety, among other causes;

Whereas, according to the World Bank, approximately 1,600,000,000 people currently live in countries and regions with absolute water scarcity and the number is expected to rise to 2,800,000,000 people by 2025 due to the effects of climate change;

Whereas a 2018 special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways found with “high confidence”, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, that—

(1) human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0 degree Celsius of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8 degrees Celsius to 1.2 degrees Celsius;

(2) global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius between 2030 and 2052 if global warming continues to increase at the current rate; and

(3) climate-related risks for natural and human systems are higher for global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius than at present, but lower than at 2 degrees Celsius; and

Whereas the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) completed in November 2018, developed by the United States Global Change Research Program, in collaboration and cooperation with 13 Federal agencies, “to advance understanding of the changing Earth system and maximize efficiencies in Federal global change research”—

(1) concludes that—

(A) the evidence of human-caused climate change is overwhelming and continues to strengthen;

(B) the impacts of climate change are intensifying across the United States;

(C) climate-related threats to the physical, social, and economic well-being of the United States are rising; and

(D) “[t]he impacts and costs of climate change are already being felt in the United States, and changes in the likelihood or severity of some recent extreme weather

events can now be attributed with increasingly higher confidence to human-caused warming"; and

(2) includes summary findings that—

(A) the quality and quantity of water available for use by people and ecosystems across the United States are being affected by climate change, increasing risks and costs to agriculture, energy production, industry, recreation, and the environment;

(B) impacts from climate change on extreme weather and climate-related events, air quality, and the transmission of disease through insects and pests, food, and water increasingly threaten the health and well-being of the people of the United States, particularly vulnerable populations;

(C) climate change increasingly threatens the livelihoods, economies, health, and cultural identities of indigenous communities by disrupting interconnected social, physical, and ecological systems;

(D) the aging and deteriorating infrastructure of the United States is further stressed by increases in heavy precipitation events, coastal flooding, heat, wildfires, and other extreme events, as well as changes to average precipitation and temperature; and

(E) without adaptation, climate change will continue to degrade infrastructure performance over the rest of the century, with the potential for cascading impacts that threaten the economy, national security, and essential services of the United States and the health and well-being of the United States people: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should—

(1) work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership in our shared responsibilities, including holding parties accountable for meeting their commitments, and address the causes and effects of climate change;

(2) remain party to the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC;

(3) reassert strong leadership in implementing the Paris Agreement;

(4) as acknowledged in the Nationally Determined Contribution submitted by the United States to the UNFCCC in 2015, take action to substantially accelerate the current pace of greenhouse gas emission reductions in order to achieve, or surpass, the emissions reduction target of the United States;

(5) ensure that the development of the policies and procedures prescribed by the Paris Agreement achieve maximum benefits for the United States; and

(6) implement its commitments under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 405—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER AS “BRAIN HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”**

Mr. GRASSLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S. RES. 405

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States suffer from behavioral health conditions, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, or a traumatic brain injury or acquired brain injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain;

Whereas a serious behavioral health condition, such as schizophrenia, or a traumatic brain injury or acquired brain injury, such as

a stroke, that disrupts the normal function of the brain often is linked to a lifetime of cognitive and behavioral challenges;

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States struggle with challenges caused by a traumatic brain injury, stroke, or mental health conditions;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of members and veterans of the Armed Forces have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and millions more have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their service, which can lead to persistent challenges for those members and veterans and their families;

Whereas approximately 1 in 5 people in the United States struggle with behavioral health disorders each year, but a majority of those people do not seek treatment for their condition, often due to the stigma associated with doing so;

Whereas early and adequate access to care, such as imaging technology that can identify areas of the brain that have been compromised, promotes health and can greatly increase the overall quality of life of many individuals in the United States;

Whereas grassroots organizations such as Brain Health Now of Iowa and Mental Health Connecticut, which are dedicated to ending the stigma of mental illness, have called for every individual in the United States to treat health conditions affecting the brain with the same regard and care as physical illnesses, such as heart disease; and

Whereas it is important to educate the public on the incidence and prevalence of brain injury and disease and to support the needs of those who are injured: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October as “Brain Health Awareness Month”; and

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to use Brain Health Awareness Month as an opportunity to promote greater acceptance of and support for individuals living with diseases or injuries affecting the brain.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Aneliz N. Castille, of New York, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, Alma L. Golden, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Peter M. Haymond, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Alina L. Romanowski, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Leslie Meredith Tsou, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, all of the Department of State.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 9:30 a.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 Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing following nominations: Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Steven J. Menashi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jodi W. Dishman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Richard Earnest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Daniel Mack Traynor, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota, Barbara Lagoa and Robert J. Luck, both of Florida, both to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Sylvia Carreno-Coll, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, John M. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Tessa Silverman, a member of my staff, during today’s session of the Senate.

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

**HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHO CARRIED OUT THE MISSION THAT KILLED ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, last weekend, elite U.S. Special Operations forces embarked on a daring and dangerous mission to locate and kill or capture the terrorist leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

These soldiers knew that Baghdadi’s compound was well guarded by radical Islamic terrorists who placed little

value on their own lives. They knew the compound was booby-trapped and that Baghdadi kept innocent children as human shields to protect himself against attack.

Nevertheless, these soldiers carried out their mission fearlessly and flawlessly. They breached the compound, eliminated Baghdadi's Praetorian Guard, and then cornered the terrorist leader in a dead end, underground tunnel.

Baghdadi chose the coward's way out, detonating a suicide vest, even though he was surrounded by his own children. True to form, he was as evil in the final moments of his life as he had been throughout it.

Now Baghdadi is dead, thanks to the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and our canines too. There is no other Nation on Earth whose military could have carried out this raid, and the American people ought to be proud of them.

To commemorate their stunning success, Senator GRAHAM and I have a resolution to honor the leaders and members of the military intelligence community who made it possible and to commend the President for his decisive leadership in ordering the raid.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 394 submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 394) honoring the members of the military and intelligence community who carried out the mission that killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 394) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I stand here today to mourn the loss of Kay Hagan. Kay was a warm, kind person with a wonderful sense of humor, and she was an inspiring public servant. I feel fortunate to have been her friend and colleague here in the U.S. Senate.

I am deeply saddened to be among the many who will miss her profoundly.

Kay knew from a young age that her destiny was in politics, starting when she worked here as an intern. She often recalled operating the Senate elevators in the 1970s. She would watch the Nation's leaders and influencers pass by, including her maternal uncle, then-Senator Lawton Chiles from Florida. She would dream of riding those elevators herself as an elected official.

Kay worked incredibly hard to achieve that dream. She earned her BA degree from Florida State University and her JD from Wake Forest University School of Law. Before Kay began her political career, she worked in financial services and became a vice president of North Carolina National Bank, which is now part of Bank of America.

In 1998, she was elected to the North Carolina State Senate, where her talent in setting the State's budget and her devotion to her constituents earned her a spot among North Carolina's "Ten Most Effective Senators" 3 years in a row. Then, in 2008, she became a U.S. Senator in a historic election. Kay was North Carolina's second female Senator ever and its first Democratic female senator.

From the moment Kay arrived in the Senate, she concerned herself with how to use her platform to clear the way for other people, especially other women, to achieve their ambitions. The very first bill she cosponsored was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which created a fairer system for filing claims of pay discrimination. She also worked with Senator SCHUMER to open the Senate swimming pool to female Senators for the first time.

Where Kay saw injustice and where she saw indignity, she saw opportunities to make the world a better place. She was committed to fighting for anyone who needed her help. She was a fierce advocate for servicemembers, veterans, and military families. Both her father and brother served in the U.S. Navy. She also spent much of her Senate career campaigning to improve education, financial literacy, and job training for underserved communities. She rallied people to these causes—not with strong-arming or with steam-rolling but with cleverness and compassion and coalition-building.

Kay was the type of legislator who dug into issues that made a real difference in people's lives, even if they weren't necessarily headline-grabbing. I had the honor of working alongside Kay in the Senate Small Business Committee for 4 years, and I watched her tirelessly create economic opportunity for North Carolinians and all Americans. The programs and policies we spearheaded there may not have made front page news, but Kay knew she was making a difference for entrepreneurship opportunities in our country.

The only thing to rival Kay's dedication to her constituents was her dedication to her family. Kay was endlessly

devoted to her husband Chip and their three children, Tilden, Jeanette, and Carrie, and all of her loved ones.

Her brother-in-law, Henry Hagan, is a fellow Baltimorean, and he has told me over the years how Kay truly was the Sun around which the entire family orbited. She was a source of gravity and life for them, as she was for so many people who were lucky enough to know her.

May her gravity continue to ground us, and may her light continue to warm and guide us. I wish all of Kay's family and friends comfort during this difficult time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, what we heard this week from my Democratic colleagues on healthcare is more of the same—more fearmongering and more misinformation.

The issue this week is about what is called 1332 waivers. These waivers allow States flexibility in how they implement healthcare programs. It is a simple concept. Every State is different. Every State should have the flexibility to design their healthcare programs and regulations in a way to best meet the needs of their citizens.

As a former Governor I know how important this is. Top-down, one-size-fits-all Federal healthcare programs increase costs and aren't the way to best serve the needs of the American people. Even the Democrats realized that when they passed ObamaCare. They created the 1332 waiver for State innovation.

As Governor, I used a similar waiver authority, an 1115 Medicaid waiver to reform our Medicaid system and transition it from a fee-for-service to a managed care system. This resulted in lower costs to taxpayers and better service and access for Florida families—a win-win.

These waivers work, and if you believe in States' rights, these waivers are the way to give States the opportunity to provide better healthcare to their citizens. But here is the problem: The Democrats don't believe in States' rights or allowing State taxpayers and citizens any flexibility to provide better healthcare services to their citizens. The Democrats want these top-down, one-size-fits-all Federal programs. If there is choice and flexibility, they want to restrict it. It is how Big Government works, and the Democrats love Big Government, restrictive mandates, and socialism.

When the Democrats are not attacking Republicans for trying to dismantle ObamaCare, the Democrats turn around to their supporters and talk about their efforts to replace ObamaCare.

They don't want to keep ObamaCare programs as they are. They know ObamaCare is not working. They want to replace it with Medicare for All,

which would be the biggest expansion of government healthcare in history. By some estimates, Medicare for All would cost more than \$30 trillion over 10 years. This one program would double the Federal budget and would require massive tax increases on each and every man, woman, and child in America.

Right now, we collect \$3 trillion in Federal revenue. Medicare for All would require everyone's Federal taxes to more than double. Coincidentally, the Congressional Budget Office has so far been unable to do an official score of the Medicare for All bill. I have asked the sponsor of the bill, the junior Senator from Vermont, who happens to be the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, to join me in requesting the CBO score for his bill. So far, crickets.

Why wouldn't the Senator want a score of his bill? It is because the Democrats don't want you to know how much it would cost. They don't want you to know how many people would lose the employer-sponsored healthcare they have and like. They don't want you to know how much taxes would have to go up.

Medicare for All is the Democrats' dream: every American on a government-run healthcare program, every American reliant on the Federal Government for their healthcare. Any effort to undermine this goal is anathema to them.

So this week they are going after 1332 waivers and claiming they somehow undermine protections for people with preexisting conditions. The Senate Democratic leader claimed yesterday that these waivers are an effort to "sabotage healthcare for millions."

I find that statement interesting. I wonder what Democratic Governor Jared Polis of Colorado thinks of the Democratic leader's claim that he is trying to sabotage healthcare. His State used these 1332 waivers to offer healthcare plans to best meet the needs of Coloradans. They have seen premiums go down by 16 percent.

I wonder what Democratic Governor John Carney of Delaware would say? His State also used this waiver and has seen premiums drop by 13 percent.

I wonder what Democratic Governor Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island would say? Premiums in her State have gone down 6 percent since they got their 1332 waiver.

Contrary to the misinformation from the Democratic leader, these waivers do not eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions. These core protections, which I strongly support, remain unchanged.

This is personal to me. My brother grew up with a preexisting condition, and my mother had to drive 200 miles to a charity hospital just to get treatment for him. The Democrats are misrepresenting the facts about 1332 waivers because they realize they are losing the argument.

Remember the ObamaCare promise: You can keep your insurance plan,

your doctor, and every family will save \$2,500. ObamaCare only benefited hospitals, insurance companies, and the pharmaceutical industry. That is why they originally supported it. But for the average American, millions lost their insurance and their doctors, premiums skyrocketed, deductibles skyrocketed. The result is that while more people have healthcare insurance, fewer people have access to healthcare. Now they want to double down with Medicare for All.

There are three problems with our current healthcare system, all caused by government: cost, cost, and cost. None of the Democrats' proposals would do a thing to address the cost of healthcare. Their proposals only make the problem worse. Keep that in mind as you listen to the Democrats' fearmongering on healthcare. They have to misrepresent information because they can't defend their own position.

The American people don't want and can't afford Medicare for All. We need to reduce healthcare costs and provide a safety net for those who cannot afford their healthcare, not create a Federal Government-organized healthcare market, which causes healthcare costs to skyrocket.

Giving flexibility to the States is an easy way to increase access and quality of care for the American people. So, of course, Democrats oppose that—except for the Democratic Governors who are doing it every day.

If you needed any more evidence of how out of touch Washington Democrats have become, look no further than their criticism and their vote against Democratic Governors for supporting good policies that make sense.

Enough with the misrepresentations, enough with the nonsense, enough with the fearmongering. The American people deserve better.

Let's work together to lower the cost of healthcare so that all taxpayers can get the care they need at a price they can afford.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### H. R. 2740

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to say a few words this afternoon about the funding of our military, the support for our troops, and what just happened on the U.S. Senate floor because it is a pretty sad exercise that, unfortunately, happens way too often in this body. I know it can be confusing to the people who are watching in the Gallery and on TV, but I want to explain what just happened because the

American people should know what is happening right now in this body.

Unfortunately, it is *deja vu* all over again on the Defense appropriations bill. Now, I enjoy my bipartisan work. Some of the best friends I have made here in the Senate have been on the other side of the aisle, but there are also principled disagreements on key issues between some of the parties here. One of them is whether we fully support our military and national defense and if we make that support a priority, not a political football, which is what we just witnessed on the Senate floor.

Now, I know all of my colleagues are patriotic. I have no doubt about that—all 100. We all love our country. Yet, in our looking at history over the decades and also just in the past few years, it certainly leaves one with the impression and the strong conclusion that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle support our military when it is convenient but have much higher priorities for which they are ready and willing to undermine military funding, readiness, and support for our troops who keep us safe.

To put this in context, we just voted to get on the Defense appropriations bill, which is the bill that funds our military. We had a budget agreement several months ago that did that. We just took up a previous appropriations bill. The plan in the Senate was to go from the bill on appropriations that we just passed to the Defense bill. That was the plan. Lo and behold, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said: No. We are going to filibuster the funding for our military. That is what just happened.

America, media, please understand that this is what just happened.

As I mentioned with regard to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, this priority for the military isn't always there. I also mentioned decades. If you look at the national Presidential level over the past four decades during which a Democratic President has been in power—think about it: President Carter, President Clinton, President Obama—what has happened? Defense spending has been cut dramatically every time, and the readiness and morale of our military forces has plummeted. That is a fact.

I chair the Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support. From 2010 to 2015, defense spending for our military declined by 25 percent, which was President Obama's second term, and we are still digging out of the hole we dug for our military with regard to readiness. Let me give you a couple of examples.

In 2015, when I first got to the Senate, 3 out of 58 brigade combat teams in the U.S. Army were at the tier 1 level of readiness that we expect. Think about that. The men and women who joined the Army who were ready to fight were in 3 out of the 58 brigade combat teams. The brigade combat team is the 5,000-man building block of



the Army, but over half of the Marine Corps naval aviation couldn't fly in 2015. Think about that. In terms of training for all pilots in the military, the flight times plummeted to, I think it was, about 8 hours a month.

My very first challenge in 2015 was part of this Obama drawdown of the military. Right when I got here, they had announced that they were going to cut an additional 50,000 U.S. Army Active-Duty troops. This was in 2015. This was only 4 years ago. Again, national security challenges are growing in the world, and 4 years ago, the Obama administration cut the Army by an additional 50,000 Active-Duty troops. This included a very important unit for the Army that happened to be in my State, the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division—a 5,000-man Airborne brigade combat team. It was the only airborne, Arctic-trained unit in the entire Asia-Pacific, in the entire Arctic. It was on the chopping block to go.

We fought that. I fought that. It was an issue I put hundreds of hours into with my team. I put a hold on the Secretary of the Army's confirmation. I put a hold on the Chief of Staff of the Army's confirmation to finally get their attention that this was a bad idea for America's national security. We won that fight, but the other 40,000 Active-Duty troops whom the Obama administration decided to get rid of are gone, and we are still rebuilding from that.

Make no mistake, if one of my colleagues who is running for President—my colleague from Massachusetts or my colleague from Vermont—gets elected next year, defense spending is going to plummet. That is just the way it is.

Go look at some of the versions of the Green New Deal for which they are advocating. It is not just about shutting down resource development. Some of the versions of that legislation, of that idea, say we are going to cut defense spending up to 50 percent. That is in the legislation.

So that is at the national level.

What about what has been going on in the U.S. Senate?

I have been here for almost 5 years. One of the big reasons I ran for the Senate was to stop the gutting of our military and to take care of our troops. I mentioned that from 2010 to 2015, readiness plummeted and that defense spending plummeted, but we have turned that around. In this Congress, with the Republicans in control and with a Republican in the White House, we have turned that around.

Now we are rebuilding our military, and a lot of my Democratic colleagues have supported this. I want to give them credit. They realized the Obama cuts were very harmful to our readiness, to our military, and to their families. There has been bipartisan support for rebuilding our military, but—and this is a big “but”—this has been a big struggle. Why? Every time my colleagues on the other side of the aisle

have higher priorities than funding our troops and the national security of our Nation—and I am not sure there are many higher priorities than that, not in my view, anyway—they turn to holding hostage defense spending by filibustering the funding of our military.

That is just what happened a couple of hours ago—actually, an hour ago—here on the Senate floor. Their friends in the press don't report on it, but it happens all the time. This puts lives at risk, and this undermines our military. By the way, the members of the military see this. The press might not report on it, but our Nation's troops and their families watch.

I said it happens all the time. Let me give you a couple of examples.

In 2015 and in 2016, when the minority was led by Harry Reid, of Nevada, he filibustered the Defense appropriations bill seven times. Again, the media didn't report on it. I am a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserves, and I trained with the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. I remember being out, training with these marines, many of whom are now going off to the Middle East—to Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan. Yet what was going on in the Senate was that the minority leader, Harry Reid, was blocking the funding of the troops.

I get it, that one leader of the Democratic Party was doing that, but what really shocked me back then was why all of the colleagues on his side followed suit to do that. I still can't understand it, especially the colleagues who have a significant military presence in their States, like in my State, the great State of Alaska.

During that time, I went to the majority leader, Leader McCONNELL, and asked him to keep bringing this bill to the floor. Let's debate it. Let's talk about it. Let's see if the American people understand what is happening, which I think they did. As we kept bringing this up to the minority leader of the U.S. Senate, many of us came down here and asked the questions: Why are you doing this? Do you not think the American people understand? Do you not think the troops understand? Come down to the Senate floor and explain why you are not supporting the funding of our troops and their families and military readiness.

Unfortunately, he never did that. That was a couple of years ago, and it is *deja vu* all over again today.

We tried to bring the Defense appropriations bill to the floor in September, before the end of the fiscal year, but my colleagues on the other side filibustered. What does that mean? It means they didn't want to vote on it, and they didn't want to deal with it so they didn't let us vote and get the 60 votes to get on the bill.

Now we are a month into the new fiscal year, and as we just saw on the floor, we finished another appropriations bill that had strong bipartisan support. The plan was to then go to De-

fense appropriations, but there was another filibuster. Amazing. I still haven't heard an explanation from anybody on the other side as to why they are doing it, but I will tell you this: It is clear to me that supporting our troops and military readiness are not their priorities.

Here are just a few items in the bill that was just filibustered: a 3½-percent pay raise. For the Army, there is full support for the 58 brigade combat teams I mentioned that were in such a low state of readiness. By the way, it is increasing. I think the number is close to 25 brigade combat teams now that we have been funding the military at tier 1 levels. Included is support for the Navy's carrier strike groups, amphibious-ready groups for the Marines and Navy, and Navy and Marine aviation units. It funds the maximum amount of flying and training for our Air Force pilots, which has been such a problem in terms of readiness. There is a huge boost to missile defense, most of which is based in the great State of Alaska, and it appropriates the funding to buy 96 F-35s in fiscal year 2020. These are the most sophisticated fifth-generation fighters. Two squadrons of F-35s will be coming to my State soon—this is funding for that—to compete with China and Russia.

These are just a few of the particulars, but what do these numbers really amount to? A better paid, better equipped, and more lethal military force.

That is what the American people want from us. It doesn't matter party—Democrat, Republican—or region—South, North, Alaska, Florida—the people want this. The troops want this. Their families want this.

We have troops in harm's way right now all around the world. Yesterday, almost every one of the Members of this body—all 100 Senators—went to a top secret briefing about the raid that killed the ISIS leader, al-Baghdadi. We were able to actually see some of the video of the remarkable professionalism, courage, and dedication of our military Special Forces who went in there at great risk to their lives and took out this ruthless, brutal, dangerous terrorist.

We owe these and our other military members and their families such a huge debt of gratitude and certainly the support of the Congress of the United States.

I was honestly thinking this morning: How can any Senator who witnessed that yesterday—and I think all 100 were there—come to the floor this afternoon and filibuster the funding for our military? Well, a bunch of them just did.

I don't know why, but as far as I can tell, since I have been in the Senate—going on 5 years—that is the ninth filibuster of defense spending in the appropriations for our military and their families that my colleagues on the Democratic side of this body have done.

Let me repeat that. Nine times in the last 4½ years, there has been this exercise to hold our military hostage for some other political priority by denying them funding—nine times.

I checked, and since I have been here, there has been no bill—no bill—filibustered more by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle than the bill that would fund our military.

Think about that. Think about that for a minute. This is the bill, when they want to leverage some other issue that has nothing to do with national security, that they pick out and they filibuster—nine times in the last 4 years.

I think it is shameful. It is politics pure and simple, certainly driven by the extreme left of their party, many of whom have not focused on the national security of our country and supporting our troops. They are trying to leverage funding for our troops to gain political concessions on other issues.

Here is the bottom line: The men and women who serve in the military don't deserve this. I wish the press would write about it. Don't hold your breath on that.

For my part, I am going to continue to come down here, as I have done before on this very issue, and say: Look, if there is one thing we should be focused on, it is supporting our military and funding them and their families to make them ready, to make them lethal, to enable them to protect our country.

If there is one bill in the Congress that we shouldn't have filibustered nine times in the last 4 years, it is this one. But that is what just happened.

I hope more Americans see this. Call your Senators who voted no today and tell them you don't agree with that vote. You do not agree with that vote. I guarantee you, the men and women who serve our country don't either, and they would appreciate if you would weigh in on their behalf.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who was more than just our colleague. She was our friend, and I am missing my friend today.

When I think about Senator Kay Hagan, I remember a lot of things. First was her deep dedication to public service. From the moment she woke up until the sun set behind her beloved Blue Ridge Mountains, Kay was focused on serving the people of North Carolina and the State she loved so much.

It was such an honor working with her, especially on behalf of North Carolina's farmers, small towns, and rural communities that she loved so much. She was passionate about the health of the land and the people who live and work on it.

Second, Kay was a fighter. We all knew that. Growing up between two brothers probably contributed to that. I have two brothers myself, and I can attest to the fact that it toughens you up.

We saw that spark every day on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Kay had a deep and abiding sense of justice, and she stood up for North Carolina families every single day, even when it wasn't easy and even when she paid a political price for it.

She stood up for expanding healthcare and protecting the rights of North Carolina women and families. That same fighting spirit kept her going through her own grueling health challenges.

I had the chance to visit with her a couple of years ago when she was receiving treatment at a rehabilitation hospital in Georgia. She was working so hard to recover her ability to move and to talk, but one thing hadn't changed—that spark in her eyes.

I know I speak for all of us when I say that Kay's grace and endurance over the past 3 years were incredibly inspiring.

Finally, when I think of Kay, I think of kindness. In a city full of sharp words and even sharper elbows, Kay was unfailingly optimistic and an absolute joy to work with.

I know that even my Republican colleagues would agree with me and join in our sorrow over her loss.

Kay and I happened to have daughters who were getting married around the same time, and as many of you know, mothers of brides love to talk about wedding plans and to share photos about the big day, and we shared a lot of photos.

I will never forget the way her face would always light up whenever she talked about her family. She was so proud of each and every one of them, and they were proud of her too.

In her final floor speech, Kay shared one of her guiding principles, a paraphrase of Luke 12:48: To whom much is given, much is expected.

This Chamber and this country are better for having known Senator Kay Hagan. She lived by that principle. She gave us so much, and she gave it with her whole heart.

Knowing Kay was a gift, and I feel so fortunate to have been able to call her my friend. My deepest condolences are with her husband Chip and their children and their extended family and many, many friends and her beloved State of North Carolina.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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 LAWRENCE VANDYKE

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Lawrence VanDyke to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. VanDyke fits neatly into this administration's pattern of picking Federal judges for our circuit courts of appeal without meaningful input from home State Senators. The President continues to select ideologically extreme nominees like Mr. VanDyke, and the White House is putting forward people without enough experience for the momentous roles they have been chosen to serve.

Mr. VanDyke has been nominated to fill a Nevada seat on the Ninth Circuit even though he is not a Nevadan. He didn't grow up in my State. He doesn't appear to own property there. He doesn't seem to have family ties. And he was an active member of the Nevada State bar for only 2 years.

Senator ROSEN and I engaged with the White House to put forward highly respected Nevadans with bipartisan support, but our suggestions were summarily ignored because the White House was laser-focused on Mr. VanDyke.

I want to be clear. The administration did not meaningfully consult about this nomination with Nevada Senators, and the result is a poor nominee.

First and foremost, I am extremely concerned about the effect that Lawrence VanDyke's lifetime appointment would have on women's reproductive rights in America. As Montana's solicitor general, Mr. VanDyke supported an Arizona abortion ban. In an amicus brief in *Horne v. Isaacson*, he contended that the constitutional right to choose should be revisited. He also defended a Montana law that made it harder for young women in that State to seek an abortion, and he advocated for letting corporations sidestep their obligations to provide insurance coverage for contraception.

Based on this record, I fear that, as a Federal judge, Mr. VanDyke would limit women's health choices in Nevada and throughout the country, including their access to birth control.

His record on LGBTQ rights is also dismal. Mr. VanDyke has ties to two ideologically extreme, anti-LGBTQ groups that the Southern Poverty Law Center has designated as hate groups. Those are the Alliance Defending Freedom and the Family Research Council. These ties are hardly surprising given that Mr. VanDyke has opposed gay rights since law school, when he wrote an article for the *Harvard Law Record*. This is that article: "One student's response to 'A Response to Glendon.'" It is dated March 11, 2004, by Lawrence VanDyke. In this article, he promotes the truth that same-sex marriage would hurt families, children, and society. This is that article, and this is his quote—clearly not only his writing but

his intent and thoughts behind what we have fought for in this country for LGBTQ rights in America for the last 10 years. What he says is, “What is quite settled, however, is that children on average fare best in stable, two parent families. This, combined with the correlative evidence of the decline in the family unit in Scandinavia, where de facto same-sex marriage has been around for about a decade, does provide ample reason for concern that same-sex marriage will hurt families and consequently children and society.” Those are his own words.

As solicitor general of Montana, he also strongly criticized LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws and worked to carve out religious exemptions to them. When signing Montana on to an amicus brief arguing that a photography company could refuse to photograph a same-sex wedding, Mr. VanDyke described the case, which is *Elaine Photography v. Willock*, as important because it would establish that “gay rights cannot always trump religious liberty.”

What you have here is an email, while he was a solicitor general in Montana, talking about why this case was important and why it was important that they sign on to the amicus brief. These are his arguments, his statements in an email. He said: “This is an important case because there is a fairly obvious collision course between religious freedom and gay rights, and this case (because it is an extreme case) could be very important in establishing that gay rights cannot always trump religious liberty.” These are his own words in an email from Montana when he was solicitor general.

Throughout his career, he has weakened environmental protections and standards, as well. Mr. VanDyke has argued in favor of fossil fuel drilling and supported reviving the Keystone Pipeline, ignoring the voices of conservationists and Native communities.

His actions do not protect our air and water, nor do they recognize the impacts of climate change or safeguard endangered species, including the iconic sage-grouse. In fact, as solicitor general of Nevada, Mr. VanDyke challenged the Republican Governor he served. He actively worked against Governor Brian Sandoval’s bipartisan agreement to protect my State’s native species. Mr. VanDyke’s opposition to land use restrictions to protect sage-grouse was so extreme that Governor Sandoval said publicly that Mr. VanDyke’s position “did not represent the State of Nevada, the governor, or any state agencies.”

With that background, clearly he should not sit on a court with jurisdiction over the West—home to nearly 75 percent of public lands in the Nation.

In the areas of reproductive rights, LGBTQ protections, and the environment, Mr. VanDyke’s nomination is so troubling because it is clear that he puts his ideology above the law. This vacancy should be filled with a judge

who will apply the law to the facts in an unbiased way—something Mr. VanDyke has proved unwilling to do.

Finally, Mr. VanDyke’s professional qualifications are simply insufficient. He has very little trial and litigation experience. When he served as Montana solicitor general, his colleagues raised serious concerns about his work ethic and legal skills. When he ran for the Montana Supreme Court, six retired judges of that court described him as “unqualified.”

As you heard at the confirmation hearings yesterday, the American Bar Association, which provides ratings for judicial nominees, gave him a rating of “not qualified.” That is worth repeating. The ABA—the American Bar Association—spoke with 60 lawyers and judges across 4 States and concluded that he wasn’t suitable for a position as a judge on the court of appeals. The people with the objections are his former colleagues.

As far as records show, not a single Federal judicial nominee has been appointed to the Federal bench who was lacking both a “qualified” or “well qualified” ABA rating and the approval of the nominee’s home state Senators. If confirmed, Mr. VanDyke would be the very first Federal judge who was judged not qualified and whose blue slips were not returned by their home State Senators. I don’t think that is a precedent this Chamber should be proud of.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is the last stop for cases that affect Nevada before they reach the Supreme Court. It is vital that Ninth Circuit nominees know the State of Nevada and its issues.

This nominee lived in the Silver State for a total of 4 years before moving to Washington to work at the Department of Justice, where he is currently. In Nevada, we welcome newcomers, but usually they stay in our communities. Mr. VanDyke didn’t. Rather than continue to serve Nevadans, he left for a plum job in Washington and is now lobbying for a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench. This isn’t someone who serves the needs of Nevadans. This isn’t someone who knows Nevada or its issues. This is a career political operative who is looking for a guaranteed paycheck.

For all of these reasons, I do not believe Lawrence VanDyke deserves a lifetime appointment to one of the highest courts in the land, which handles 70,000 critical cases each year. He is not the right person in whose hands to leave Americans’ reproductive freedom, their fundamental civil rights, and their claim to a free and healthy environment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my friend and colleague Senator CORTEZ MASTO in opposing the nomination of Lawrence VanDyke to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Nevada.

Our Federal courts make decisions every day that affect consumers, immigrants, small businesses, not to mention our right to equal treatment, education, and healthcare. As such, our Federal judges must be serious, fair-minded, and nonpartisan. We want women and men on the Federal bench who will look at the facts of a case, apply the law, and work hard to reach a just result regardless of who the parties are in front of them. The Federal bench must reflect our country in all its diversity of experience and background.

Even though the Constitution gives the President the power to nominate Federal judges, it also requires the advice and consent of the Senate, and historically the President consults with home state Senators when there is a vacancy. As the representatives to our States, we are better equipped to identify qualified lawyers and judges to serve on the Federal bench who have done good work and who have good reputations in our home communities.

We have numerous qualified, nonpartisan individuals working in the Nevada legal community who would make excellent additions to the Ninth Circuit. There are a number of amazing Nevada lawyers whom Senator CORTEZ MASTO and I would have gladly considered supporting for a seat on this prestigious court. We have litigators, magistrate judges, law professors, prosecutors, public defenders, and existing district court judges with stellar reputations from the State, lawyers and judges from Nevada. They know our State, and they have respected nonpartisan records. But the White House didn’t nominate any of these individuals for the Ninth Circuit. Instead, the President nominated Lawrence VanDyke, a Washington, DC, lawyer. He wasn’t born in Nevada. He didn’t grow up in Nevada. He didn’t go to school in Nevada. He doesn’t live in Nevada now.

Mr. VanDyke, a Montana native who ran for office there and also worked in Texas, came to Nevada for a job a few years ago, in 2015. When the person he worked for lost a political race in 2018, Mr. VanDyke quickly sold the house he briefly owned in Nevada and moved to Virginia to work in Washington, DC, and as of last week, by his own admission, he hasn’t even been back to Nevada since then.

He is a DC lawyer and a failed political candidate from Montana who shares this White House’s extreme political views. They are imposing him on Nevada despite the fact that we have so many qualified people in our own State who enjoy broad support across the political spectrum.

Nevada has a vibrant community, and we take pride in knowing each other, respecting each other, and most importantly, putting partisan politics aside when it comes to working together for the betterment of our State. So if someone is a good judge or lawyer, if they are honest and they have a good reputation professionally, if they

are civil in court and have a respectful demeanor, you will usually hear the same things about that person from everyone.

These are the types of people who should be Federal judges: people who treat everyone fairly and with respect, who are smart, who are fair, and who follow the facts to get a just result.

After reviewing Mr. VanDyke's record and meeting with him privately and watching his testimony before the Judiciary Committee yesterday, I have arrived at the determination that Mr. VanDyke does not fit that mold.

Mr. VanDyke spent a lot of time in our meeting talking about how the role of a Federal judge is simply to apply the law and not to try to change it. His record clearly shows otherwise.

How do we know this? Because before coming to Nevada, Mr. VanDyke worked for the Montana attorney general. Many of his emails from that time are public. They show he used that government office, where his job was to defend the laws of Montana—instead, what he chose to do is advance his own personal ideological agenda, even when it was against his State's interests. At least in one instance, he signed the State of Montana onto a brief without even bothering to read it.

Among the briefs Mr. VanDyke signed in his home State of Montana during his tenure as solicitor general was one asking the Supreme Court to strike down *Roe v. Wade* and all of the reproductive cases that followed *Roe*. When it comes to a woman's right to make her decisions about her own body, Mr. VanDyke's views and actions are far outside the mainstream, and they are far out of step with the views of the people of Nevada.

I am also concerned about the comments Mr. VanDyke has made about LGBTQ Americans. In 2004, Mr. VanDyke wrote that there is "ample reason for concern that same-sex marriage will hurt families, and consequentially children and society."

The LGBTQ community is at a critical point in its fight for equality. This term, the Supreme Court is considering whether employers in the United States can fire an individual merely for being gay or transgender. When the next case on LGBTQ rights comes up for judicial consideration, it could come before Lawrence VanDyke.

If that isn't enough, here is one more thing to consider. The American Bar Association has, by a substantial majority, rated Mr. VanDyke as unqualified. For a lifetime appointment, we should always strive for a candidate who is very qualified. No, they gave us Lawrence VanDyke, who was rated "not qualified."

Why did the ABA make this determination? Well, I will let the ABA's words speak for themselves. Based on interviews with 60 individuals who have worked with Mr. VanDyke over the years, including more than 40 lawyers and over a dozen judges, this is what the ABA said.

Mr. VanDyke's past work is offset by the assessments of interviewees that Mr. VanDyke is . . . lazy, an ideologue, and lacking in knowledge of the day-to-day practice including procedural rules. There was a theme that the nominee lacks humility, has an "entitlement" temperament, does not have an open mind, and does not always have a commitment to being candid and truthful.

Surely you agree, no matter who is in the White House or who controls the Senate, you would want the Federal judges in your States to come from and reflect your communities. You would want to trust these judges to be fair to your constituents and not use cases to advance their own ideological agenda, and you would want your judges to be, at a minimum, qualified to serve on the bench.

I oppose the nomination of Mr. VanDyke, and if it is withdrawn or voted down, I will be ready that day to work with this White House on finding nominees from Nevada who are qualified and fair and nonpartisan. The people of my home State of Nevada, particularly today, on Nevada Day, deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### LEGISLATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the end of the fiscal year for the U.S. Government came and went without a new funding bill in place. It was a big disappointment because this summer I thought we had reached an agreement on a 2-year budget package designed to make the appropriations process much simpler and eliminate the uncertainty that comes from continuing resolutions and stop-start funding for government agencies.

We agreed to topline funding for defense and nondefense spending. It was a big deal. There was also a promise not to derail the process with poison pill policy riders, and we got it done with plenty of time to spare.

I remember at the time thinking, hey, maybe we can help restore some regular order and put the function back in Congress rather than the dysfunction. But, unfortunately, politics got in the way. When the time came last month to make good on the promises that were made during that 2-year budget cap deal, Senate Democrats blocked a bill to fund our national defense. You heard me right. Senate Democrats blocked the appropriations for our national defense.

If there is one thing we should make a priority here in Washington, DC, it is protecting our country, keeping our men and women in uniform adequately trained with the equipment and the resources they need in order to fight and win the Nation's wars, and, even better, to prevent a war from being fought in the first place.

But our Democratic colleagues simply blocked it. It wasn't a disagreement over the amount. No, it was something they had already agreed to

last summer. They blocked the bill because, frankly, they don't want President Trump to have any sort of wins here, even when it undermines our national security.

It was a remarkable show of priorities. Their animosity toward the President exceeded their desire to see funding flow to the men and women in uniform and to defend the Nation. We could have provided our troops with the largest pay raise in a decade. We could have sent vital funding to our military as they battle looming threats around the world. We could have put the appropriations process back on track and restored the basic functioning of Congress. But, no, our Democratic colleagues chose to put politics ahead of any of that.

With our only options being a government shutdown or a short-term funding bill, we chose the lesser of two evils. But it is still evil in the sense that it is much less than we should be doing to serve the Nation and serve our constituents. We pushed the deadline, and we kicked the can down the road to November 21. We hoped our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have a change of heart, but now they have proved us wrong.

Democrats have blocked money for the military again and again. This is beginning to feel like "Groundhog Day." They continue choosing to put their ongoing feud with the President before our most important responsibility as a Congress: to provide for the common defense.

As if we needed to be reminded of the importance of our strong military, earlier this week, our highly skilled Special Forces troops took out the leader of ISIS, one of the most feared and dangerous terrorist leaders in the world. That terrorist is no longer a threat, thanks to the men and women of our military—Special Forces, in particular.

It was a tremendous victory for the United States and for our allies and underscored the need for us to continue to support our troops by funding the Defense bill. For our forces to continue fighting and risking death and injury itself while defeating evil in every corner of the world, they need our support, and there is no more tangible way to demonstrate that support than for Congress to pass this funding bill.

We also know, because of the need to plan, they need stability. They need a long-term funding bill and not just to stop-start, kick the can down the road a few weeks, and then come back and refight the same fights over and over and over again. That is really a pathetic response to our duty to help support our men and women in uniform. They need the unwavering support of every man and woman in this Chamber.

But, right now, our Democratic colleagues seem content just to say no, to get in the way, and to block this funding. Will they pay any price for doing that? I don't know. They don't seem to really particularly care.

I have no doubt that this obstruction is tied to the obsession that the House

of Representatives has to remove President Trump from office. We have heard over and over again from our Democratic colleagues that impeachment will not interfere with their ability to legislate and to get work done, but their actions speak louder than words.

While I think the decision to block defense funding is the most egregious example so far, it is far from the only one. The extent to which they will go to try to defeat and slow down and impede the President and anything he might be able to point to as a victory—here is another example.

It has been more than a year since the landmark trade agreement between Mexico and Canada was announced, but we are still waiting for Speaker PELOSI to show the green light and pass the USMCA and send it to the Senate, where I am sure it will pass overwhelmingly. This agreement will provide billions of dollars in economic growth, new jobs here at home, and greater stability for our economy, but we haven't been able to reap those benefits because the agreement is being stalled in the House.

Well, why is that? Well, it could be because they are obsessed with and preoccupied with impeachment, and they can't seem to get anything else done. The Speaker claims progress is being made, but it has been the same song and dance for months with nothing to show for it.

In the Senate, unfortunately, things aren't a lot different. A bill I introduced with our Democratic colleague, Senator BLUMENTHAL from Connecticut, to reduce drug prices, has gotten caught in the crosshairs of this partisan fighting too. This bill has broad bipartisan support. It would lower Federal spending by more than one-half billion dollars in over 10 years. It would also save consumers out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs.

According to Politico, the Democratic leader is blocking the bill, despite the fact that folks in both parties in Congress, as well as the President, have said that they are eager to pass legislation to reduce drug prices. The Democratic leader will not let it come to the floor.

To me, this is the greatest example of our dysfunction here: When the President is for something, when Democrats are for something, when Republicans are for something, when the House is for something, when the Senate is for something, we still can't seem to get it done. That is a hard one to explain. Sadly, the list doesn't stop there.

Here is another example. Earlier this year, the Senate unanimously—unanimously—passed a bill I introduced to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act. This program supplies funding to State and local crime labs to test DNA, or forensic evidence, and to reduce the rape kit backlog. It is about as nonpartisan an issue as they come. Unfortunately, that didn't make it immune from the

gamesmanship in the House. After months of refusing to act on this bill, we sent it over—I think it was in May. They did nothing for a long time, and they allowed the Debbie Smith Act to expire.

When something as noncontroversial as reducing the rape kit backlog gets politicized, you know you are in trouble. Well, I was finally glad to see last week that the House changed its tune, thanks to a lot of pressure both from within and without, because their refusal to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act and this critical rape kit backlog funding was indefensible. So I am hopeful we can get that bill to the President's desk now after this long and unnecessary delay.

We all knew that the Democratic obsession with removing the President from office began before he was inaugurated, but no one expected it to get this far out of hand or for the dysfunction to be so pervasive. Their impeach-at-any-cost attitude has now brought the work of Congress to a screeching halt. Legislation is collecting cobwebs in the corner while our Democratic colleagues are conducting secret hearings behind closed doors in an effort to reverse the 2016 election.

While they are continuing this charade here in Washington, their constituents are likely wondering what it is their elected representatives are doing to make their lives better at home. Are they passing bills to bring down drug prices, like the bill I have with Senator BLUMENTHAL? Are they trying to strengthen the economy by improving trading relationships among Mexico, Canada and the United States? Are they passing legislation to support our men and women in the military?

I am sad to say that for our Democratic colleagues, the answer to each of those questions is no—no time for tackling the big problems but plenty of time for the politics of trying to remove the President from office, 1 year before the next general election.

Speaker PELOSI knows this is going to divide the country, and it is going to occupy everyone's attention here in Washington, DC, until it is concluded, and she also knows that the likelihood of getting 66 votes in the Senate to convict the President and to remove him is incredibly unlikely. It has never happened in our Nation's history, even though President Nixon did resign. No previous President who has been impeached has actually been convicted and removed from office.

The inability to separate their obsession with the President from their duties here in Congress should be embarrassing.

Impeachment may consume the news cycle, but it shouldn't stop all of us from working together in the best interests of our constituents and the American people. I hope our Democratic colleagues will reconsider.

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

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I am here on a sad note and then on a happier note as well. I am going to try to tie the two together.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have been privileged to serve, and this my 19th year here in the U.S. Senate. A long time ago, I served as a naval officer in the Vietnam war and as later State treasurer, Congressman, Governor of Delaware, and now I serve as U.S. Senator. I have had the privilege of serving with literally hundreds of people here, in the House, as Governor, and certainly in the Navy and the armed services during the Vietnam war.

Among my all-time favorite colleagues of all of those, whether it was in the military service, the State of Delaware, or here in Congress, one of my all-time favorite people to serve with was a woman from North Carolina, from a place called Shelby.

My wife is from North Carolina, from a place called Boone. Her family is from North Carolina. She has her father down there. Boone is up in the mountains. She has sisters. She has sisters in Raleigh, and some of her family has actually lived in Shelby, NC.

There was a woman born there on May 26, 1953, named Kay Hagan. I don't know that she was born Kay Hagan, but she became Kay Hagan, and maybe that was after getting married. But she was the daughter of a homemaker named Jeanette, and her dad had a tire business. Later, he worked as a real estate broker. Apparently, politics was in her blood. Her dad also served as mayor, later on, of Lakeland, FL. That was where Kay Hagan spent most of her childhood.

Lakeland, FL, is near to me because it is the spring training camp for the Detroit Tigers. I have been a Detroit Tigers fan since I was 9 years old. So it has been a while. For the people watching the World Series, three of the best pitchers in baseball used to pitch for my Tigers. They went through training camp in Lakeland and ended up with other teams that took them into the World Series.

Kay was not around to watch any of those former Tigers pitch because she passed away just about 3 days ago.

Her uncle was a former Governor of Florida, with whom I served. Lawton Chiles was one of the sweetest, best guys I have ever known. He served here in the U.S. Senate for many years—sort of a centrist Democrat. He was beloved in his State and beloved here as well.

Both Kay's dad and her brother served in the U.S. Navy. I did 23 years

in all, Active Duty and Reserve, in the Navy, and I treasure those days.

Apparently, Kay also spent summers on her grandparents' farm. They had a farm not in North Carolina but in a place called Chesterfield in South Carolina. Chesterfield used to be a tobacco brand. It was called Chesterfield. She spent summers on her grandparents' farm in Chesterfield, SC, and there she helped to string tobacco and harvest watermelons.

I grew up in Danville, VA, the world's biggest tobacco market. The kids in my classes at school—the really cool kids, apparently—strung tobacco and probably harvested watermelons, as well, as Kay did.

She graduated from Lakeland High School in 1971 and went on to Florida State University and received her JD from Wake Forest Law School in 1978.

Her husband Chip, whom she married, I think, in 1977, was a transactions lawyer. She raised her family in Greensboro, NC. If you go 30 or 40 miles north of Greensboro, you are in Virginia, and that is where I grew up, in Danville, VA.

When I first met her, we kind of talked about her background in the Navy and her father, and we talked about Lakeland, FL, and my affinity for the Detroit Tigers, who have trained there for decades. We talked about her raising her family in Greensboro. I spent a lot of my childhood in Danville, just north of Greensboro.

I told her a story about going to Greensboro with my dad, as a kid, and we got ourselves a hunting dog from Greensboro, where she raised her family.

She leaves behind three kids—Jeanette, who was named after her mother, Tilden, and Carrie. She also is a grandmother of five grandchildren whom she loved and adored.

Before she got into politics she worked in the financial industry. She became vice president of what was then North Carolina National Bank and went on to become today part of Bank of America.

She worked as a campaign manager for a guy named Jim Hunt. Jim Hunt was Governor for 8 years. In North Carolina, you can be Governor for 8 years, and you have to step down, or you can come back and be elected again. He was elected for another 8 years. She worked for Jim Hunt, a great education Governor, who always surrounded himself with just the best people in the world. I treasured serving as a Governor with him and his friendship, and the fact that she had been his campaign manager endeared her to me.

She was first elected to office, I think, when she was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly, not as a State representative but she was elected as a State senator. She served, I think, five terms, representing Guilford County down in North Carolina.

She ran for the Senate in 2008 against Elizabeth Dole, another person for whom I had great affection, as I did for

her husband, Bob. Both of them actually served here in the Senate, Bob and Elizabeth Dole. Elizabeth is from North Carolina.

We were fond of her, and when the two of them ran against each other, it was tough, but stuff like that happens. Kay won, and she came here and served for 6 years until 2015.

She left the Senate in 2014. She was defeated by THOM TILLIS, who serves here today. She lost by, I think, less than 50,000 votes, so it was a close vote. After her term ended in the Senate, she went on to work as a fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics and a senior policy consultant at a law firm, Akin Gump.

She died October 28 of this year, 3 days ago, of encephalitis caused by a virus she contracted from a tick bite, and it is something that happened in 2016, and it was 3 years later that she finally died, which is very, very sad.

She was the second female Senator from North Carolina—first female Democrat to be elected from North Carolina to the Senate, the first female Democrat. She served, while she was here, on a number of committees. I did not have the pleasure of serving with her at the same time. She was on Armed Services. There is a lot of military in North Carolina, especially the Marines there on the East Coast.

But she was on the Banking Committee. She joined the committee after I left to be a member of the Finance Committee. She served on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

In 6 years, you vote on a lot of amendments, you vote on a lot of bills, you offer a lot of bills and amendments. She did all of that, and I just wanted to focus on one thing that she supported and worked on. She was a person who believed that we have a moral obligation to the least of these in our society. Matthew 25 speaks to a moral obligation—when people are hungry, what we should do about it, when they are naked or thirsty, what are our obligations, regardless of our faith.

Matthew 25 states: When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was naked, did you clothe me? When I was thirsty, did you give me drink? When I was sick or in prison, did you visit me? When I was a stranger in your land, did you walk with me?

And she answered all of those questions: Yes, yes, yes.

She was somebody that thought we had moral obligations for the least of these, but since we didn't have unlimited amounts of money, we just couldn't waste our money, and we had to spend it effectively. She believed that we should not just give a person a fish and feed them for a day, but teach a person to fish and they would feed themselves for a lifetime.

She was a fitness buff. I love to work out, and my wife loves to work out, and she did too. I think that is one of the

reasons that she was able to fight this disease and fight it off as long as she did. There is a gym here that used to be little. It is a little bigger that it used to be. The one in the House is much bigger; they have a lot more people.

But they have a little swimming pool at the gym here, and I have never used it. For years, it was just men only. In fact, for years there was not even an opportunity for women in the Senate to actually have a fitness center to work out. She changed that. She led the fight to change that. I think when she lost her race in 2014 and the women in the Senate threw her a goodbye party, they did it at the pool and in the fitness center down in the basement of the Russell building.

In the 1970s, she was an intern in the Capitol—and we have some pages here. I don't think she was ever a page, but later she was an intern. She became an elevator operator. I am not sure if Harry Reid, who was our majority leader and minority leader here, he was an elevator operator, but there was sort of a pecking order, starting with pages at a very young age and interns later on, and then they become an elevator operator and have some other jobs here and then go off to do amazing things with their life.

And she certainly did that. She was operating an elevator here in the Senate that carried Senators, including her uncle Lawton Chiles, who I mentioned earlier.

Joe Biden visited Kay Hagan in North Carolina the day before her death—that would have been 4 days ago—and what Joe said of Kay is that she was a crucial partner in passing the Affordable Care Act and the stimulus package which got us off of our back when we were going through the worst recession since the Great Depression. Joe said that “She was a crucial partner” in passing the Affordable Care Act, which passed by one vote, and she was that one vote. I think she was probably prouder of that vote than anything that she did when she served here.

I want to segue from Kay, but before I do, she was always interested in figuring out the right things to do, not what was easy or expedient. She was always asking what is the right thing to do. I remember her being here and other Senators—Democrats and Republicans—and we were trying to figure out what to do on a particular issue. She would always say: What is the right thing to do?

She was one of those people who had deep faith, and she believed not only do we have a moral obligation to the least of these, but she thought that we ought to treat other people the way we wanted to be treated, and that is the Golden Rule.

As it turns out, about a week ago, I was invited to worship in a Hindu worship service in Delaware with a congregation of a thousand people, and I was reminded there that the Golden

Rule—to treat other people the way we want to be treated—is part of every major religion, the Golden Rule. I do not care if you are Catholic, I do not care if you are a Jew, I do not care if you are a Muslim, Hindu, some form of the Golden Rule is right there. She was a big proponent of the Golden Rule, and that was the work of her life.

She was also one of those people who focused on excellence in everything she did. She was committed to doing things well and wanted to be surrounded by staff that did things well. When things would go well for her and she would do a good job, she would always give credit to her team. When her team would fall short, she was not one of those people who blamed the team; she blamed herself.

Another thing I would say is she just didn't give up. She was tenacious—not very tall, not tall in stature, but, boy, was she tenacious. She showed this especially by the way she fought for her life to the very end 3 days ago.

I want to talk just a little about her vote on the Affordable Care Act and why she thought it was the right thing to do. Matthew 25 does not say anything about: I was lame and you gave me healthcare or access to healthcare. My own source of healthcare was the hospital, what did you do about it? That doesn't say that in the New Testament.

But I think the implication is clear. We have an obligation—I think a moral obligation to try to make sure everybody has access to healthcare and, hopefully, to affordable healthcare. That is what we tried to do with the Affordable Care Act, and that is why she supported it.

Sometimes people think the Affordable Care Act is just the exchanges, just the marketplaces. Every State has an exchange or marketplace that is there. It is sort of like a purchasing pool for healthcare that people can become a part of. If they don't work for an employer who provides healthcare, that is issued by the employer, and they are not old enough for Medicare or their income level is too high to allow them to participate in Medicaid and, in those cases, they have to find some way to get access to healthcare.

Back in 1993, the Republican Senator from Rhode Island, John Chafee—who is also a Navy guy, later Secretary of the Navy—he introduced legislation here in the Senate in 1993 as a Republican response to something Hillary Clinton was doing during her husband's administration that was working to find ways to make sure that everybody had access to healthcare in this country.

We worked on something called HillaryCare, and the Republicans ridiculed her efforts and those around her. She said basically in response: What is your idea? What is your idea?

The response was by Senator Chafee, joined by 22 or 23 Republican Senators, and part of what they came up with is that every State should have an ex-

change and every State should have the ability to set up the purchasing pool in their State. People who didn't have coverage could get their coverage in the exchanges.

Neither one was turned into law, but about 10, 12 years later, the new Governor of Massachusetts, MITT ROMNEY, took the idea of the exchanges and introduced the Mitt Romney Care so that the people in his State would have the opportunity to sign up for the coverage in their exchange.

We wrote the Affordable Care Act, we did it, and we took good ideas from all over the country and all over the world to provide healthcare to people that was affordable. One of the ideas that we stole to put in the Affordable Care Act was Governor Romney's idea of the exchanges.

And you know what? It was a good idea. It was a good idea. The first few years of RomneyCare in Massachusetts, they did a pretty good job of extending coverage. They did not do such a good job initially on affordability, and they kept trying, and they finally figured it out—competition in the marketplace, in the exchange, and more insurance companies providing, participating, and this worked well. We found in the first 2 years that the Affordable Care Act was standing up the exchanges 7, 8, or 9 years ago that it was a challenge. It was difficult.

What has happened now is the insurers are starting to figure it out. They priced too high. The States have come up with ways to buy down the risks for the insurers and to make a number of States' health insurance in the exchanges more affordable, so that more people can actually afford that help.

I would just close this here. The majority leader is standing here waiting to speak, so I will just close if I can by saying after a number of years seeing the cost of healthcare coverages in exchanges across the country go up, up, up—sometimes by double-digit rates—the insurance companies were trying to figure out how to price health insurance for people who have not had health insurance for years. It took them several years to figure it out, but they finally, for the most part, have. The cost of healthcare in exchanges doesn't go up by double-digit rates anymore.

In fact, we have 20 or more States now where the cost of healthcare coverage in the exchange is only going up a couple of percentage points, maybe less. In a half-dozen States, the cost of healthcare in the exchanges is actually going down. In the State of Delaware, when the exchanges open up tomorrow, the people will sign up for the healthcare exchange in Delaware, the price will not be going up next year. It will be going down by 19 percent. There are six other States where the consumer experience is similar, and that is encouraging.

A lot more insurance companies are offering coverage in the States, 23 last year and 45 this year—and that is going

to introduce competition and, we hope, a cycle that will allow more people to get better coverage for a lower price.

So, Kay Hagan, we miss you, and we considered it a privilege to have served with you here. Something good has come out of something very difficult. The passage of the Affordable Care Act was hard. It has been hard finding a way forward since then, but I think better days lie ahead, and market forces are starting to work, and that is a good thing.

And with that, I will yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of Calendar Nos. 468 through 477 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Andrew C. Hilmes

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. James B. Hecker

#### IN THE NAVY

the following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Gregory C. Huffman

The following named officer for appointment in the grade indicated while serving as Surgeon General of the Navy under title 10, U.S.C., section 8077:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. Bruce L. Gillingham

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen Mark C. Schwartz

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Karl Konzelman

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Randy A. George

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C. section 601.

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Edwin J. Deedrick, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance—and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601.

*To be lieutenant general*

Gen. James E. Rainey

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in The United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be admiral*

Vice Adm. Charles A. Richard

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S  
DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1112 AIR FORCE nomination of David B. Martin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1113 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW W. STYLES, and ending LINDSEY P. DAVIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1114 AIR FORCE nomination of Shayla A. Canty-Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1116 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning TRAVIS M. ALLEN, and ending CHRISTOPHER D. UNDERWOOD, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1118 AIR FORCE nomination of Brandon R. Burden, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1184 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning STEVEN D. GRESSWELL, and ending TESSA L. WINTERTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1185 AIR FORCE nomination of Jason M. Zhao, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1186 AIR FORCE nomination of Samuel H. Bridges, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1187 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning TIMOTHY J. CURRY, and ending RYAN J. GARLOW, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1188 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning BRIAN P. BERLAKOVICH, and ending

SCOTT J. RUMISEK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

PN1119 ARMY nomination of Timothy M. Donelson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1120 ARMY nomination of Cesar A. Patino, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1121 ARMY nomination of John J. Vogel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1122 ARMY nomination of Lance A. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1123 ARMY nomination of Gregory J. Hirschey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S  
DESK

PN1124 ARMY nomination of Michael C. Haith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1125 ARMY nomination of Christopher O. Dorsey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1126 ARMY nomination of Galen Cipperly, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1127 ARMY nomination of Wayne J. Harsha, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1128 ARMY nominations (12) beginning PAULA A. BOICE, and ending CHUNAE ZOH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1189 ARMY nomination of Brian E. Burk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1190 ARMY nomination of Rhianna K. Riggs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1191 ARMY nomination of Fatima H. Khan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1192 ARMY nomination of Demetrius E. Walton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1193 ARMY nominations (12) beginning GREGORY B. BATDORFF, and ending ERIC W. WIDMAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1194 ARMY nominations (3) beginning JOSEPH A. BURTON, and ending RONALD C. VICARS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1195 ARMY nomination of Eric L. Rahman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1196 ARMY nomination of Guadalupe Resendez, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1197 ARMY nomination of Katrina A. Parlow, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1198 ARMY nominations (44) beginning LESLIE E. AKINS, and ending D014484,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1199 ARMY nominations (8) beginning MATTHEW W. CASPARI, and ending GLEN E. TEMPLETON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1200 ARMY nomination of Kenneth J. Biskner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1201 ARMY nominations (7) beginning NAVARI N. CAMERON, and ending JUAN A. VILLATORO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1202 ARMY nomination of Deleno M. Harper, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1203 ARMY nomination of James M. McCandless, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1204 ARMY nomination of Jens K. Pederson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1207 ARMY nominations (2) beginning GRECO E. CARRERAS, and ending PAUL E. GEBHARDT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1208 ARMY nomination of James H. Feaster, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1209 ARMY nomination of Christa M. Chewar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1210 ARMY nomination of Erik A. Ernest, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1211 ARMY nomination of Joshua D. Helsel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1212 ARMY nomination of Scott T. McCartney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1213 ARMY nomination of Broderick L. Gardner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1214 ARMY nomination of Kara S. Krulewicz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1215 ARMY nomination of Tatchie O. Manso, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1216 ARMY nomination of Eduardo Olvera, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1217 ARMY nomination of Francisco Rincon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1218 ARMY nomination of Wallace W. Rollins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1219 ARMY nomination of Taylor S. Schenck, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1220 ARMY nomination of William D. Swenson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1147 MARINE CORPS nomination of James M. Stephens, which was received by



the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1148 MARINE CORPS nomination of Carlos T. Jackson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

#### IN THE NAVY

PN1129 NAVY nomination of Michael J. Tagalao, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1130 NAVY nomination of Patcho N. Santiago, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1131 NAVY nomination of Bryan A. Boldon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1132 NAVY nomination of Michael D. Cribbs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1133 NAVY nomination of Brackery L. Battle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1134 NAVY nomination of Joel D. Myers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1135 NAVY nominations (108) beginning BRYAN M. ALLRED, and ending KENDRA M. YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1136 NAVY nominations (138) beginning MARIO D. ADAME, and ending ANTHONY M. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1137 NAVY nominations (1117) beginning WILLIAM H. ABBITT, and ending RUBEN B. ZWEIBAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1138 NAVY nominations (30) beginning KELLY W. AGHA, and ending AMY L. YOUNGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1139 NAVY nominations (39) beginning KWADWO S. AGYEPONG, and ending SHAUN E. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1140 NAVY nominations (6) beginning BRADLEY E. CHERRY, and ending NEIL W. WHITESELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1141 NAVY nominations (15) beginning HERNAN R. BORJA, and ending BRIAN E. YEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1142 NAVY nominations (15) beginning BENJAMIN T. ANDERSON, and ending MATTHEW A. STROUP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1143 NAVY nominations (16) beginning NICK AVILA, and ending ATHANASIOS R. VARVOUTIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1144 NAVY nominations (17) beginning MICHAEL ADAMSKI, JR., and ending AUSTIN C. WEST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1145 NAVY nominations (60) beginning JASON C. ABELL, and ending JAMES M. ZWEIFEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1146 NAVY nominations (49) beginning GARRETT L. ADAMS, and ending IRIS P. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1222 NAVY nomination of Joseph L. Coffey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 399, S. Res. 400, and S. Res. 401.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 399, S. Res. 400, S. Res. 401) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to. (The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### HONORING THE LIFE, WORK, AND LEGACY OF TONI MORRISON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 402, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 402) honoring the life, work, and legacy of Toni Morrison.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 402) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

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

#### NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 403, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 403) designating October 2019 as "National Farm to School Month".

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to honor the contributions of farm to school programs around the country by introducing a resolution that designates October as "National Farm to School Month." I am glad Senators COLLINS, BROWN, and PERDUE joined me in introducing this resolution.

Under a provision I authored in the 2010 Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act, farm to school programs across the country have thrived. Grants have been awarded in all 50 States and the District of Columbia to support programs in more than 43,000 schools. We have learned that one of the best ways to help students make healthy choices is to teach them about their food and how it is grown. Making that connection makes a difference.

We all know that hungry children cannot learn. Studies have shown that healthy nutrition in a young person's diet is crucial to cognitive ability and better health in the long run. Food insecurity and obesity rates are still too high in this country, resulting in poor health and learning and behavioral difficulties at school. The school meal program has made tremendous strides in recent years to ensure not only that children have access to meals throughout the school day but that those meals are nutritious. The Farm to School Program has given children and schools across the country the tools to craft farm-fresh, healthy, and delicious meals that students enjoy.

In Vermont, I have seen firsthand how farm to school efforts have better connected children with the food in their cafeteria. Students participate in school gardens, sustainability projects, and taste tests for new school menu items. Earlier this month, I was glad to visit St. Albans, VT, to announce grants that will enhance classroom curriculum to help children become familiar with local food and how to eat healthfully.

Ensuring children have enough food to eat is an issue that unites us all. There is simply no excuse that in the wealthiest, most powerful Nation on Earth, people go hungry. Small changes in eating habits by children

will result in lifelong health benefits for generations to come. The Farm to School Program empowers children and their families to make healthy choices now and in the future. I am glad all Senators joined us in recognizing the importance of this program and recognizing October 2019 as National Farm to School Month.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 403) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

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

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2423, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2423) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2423) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CYBERSE- CURITY AWARENESS MONTH TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT, AND ENHANCE THE STATE OF, CY- BERSECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 345.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 345) supporting the goals and ideals of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month to raise awareness about, and enhance the state of, cybersecurity in the United States.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 345) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019, AND TUESDAY, NOVEM- BER 5, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on Monday November 4, at 1 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, November 4, it next convene at 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 5, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be expired, 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 Tapp nomination; further, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, November 5; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator MURKOWSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know that several of my colleagues have had an opportunity to take to the floor this week and today to speak to the memory of a woman, a Senator, and a friend—certainly a friend of mine—former Senator Kay Hagan from the State of North Carolina.

Kay was one of those women whom you naturally gravitated to. She was kind. She was generous in her southern manner and in her charm.

I rarely use the word "delightful" to describe people, but Kay was a delightful woman. She was a friend to so many of us, and she was a good colleague in the Senate.

We had an opportunity to work together on different legislative matters, whether it was initiatives I was leading on mineral security or initiatives she was working on with regard to small business and HUBZones, but the one area we really did connect on for a couple years was what we were trying to do with our sportsmen's bill.

We were successful in passing that through the Senate a couple years ago, but we worked on this back in 2014, and it gave us an opportunity, as two women from States where hunting and fishing and being engaged with the outdoors is something that Alaskans and North Carolinians do and enjoy. We shared stories. We shared just discussion about how we were able to reach common ground. We figured if these two women from these two parts of the country could figure this out and make it happen, that would really be a good day, a positive day.

Well, it didn't happen at that particular time, but I am pleased to say we were successful some years later, and I think much of that was due, in part, to the good work of Kay Hagan.

I know there have been references to her legislative work, to her quality as a woman and a leader. My heart is really with the Hagan family, with her husband, Chip, and her extended family who truly loved her and were very protective of her in so many ways. I know their loss is a significant one.

I want them all to know that this Senator from Alaska shares that love, shares that loss for a woman who served us all well. I wanted to make sure that my comments were included among the many who have spoken on Kay's life.

#### SAVANNA'S ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to speak to another matter this afternoon, a matter that as I think about my tenure in the Senate and those initiatives I have been engaged with that have really touched me in a way that make me want to work all that much harder because it is so challenging, it is so difficult, and in many, many ways, it is so dark that anything I can do to shine a light on it, I will do so.

I came to the Senate floor 2 years ago, joined by my former colleague from North Dakota, Senator Heidi Heitkamp. Heidi was on the floor speaking about a bill she had introduced, Savanna's Act, but together we were really working to speak to the urgency of addressing this epidemic, if you will, this growing number of missing and murdered Native women across America.

The awful truth in this country is that Native women are victims of violence in unprecedented proportions.

When I say unprecedented, I will give you some of Alaska's numbers just to kind of put it into perspective.

This month, October, is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and so in many of the communities in States across the country, we have been focused on these issues of domestic violence and what more we can do to address these issues of concern and safety.

Well, on October 1, the first day of this month where we are raising this awareness, the headlines in the State's largest newspaper stated that the rate of rape in the State of Alaska was up 11 percent between 2017 and 2018—an 11-percent increase in 1 year.

We are a State where, unfortunately, Alaska Native women are 2½ times more likely to be a victim of domestic violence. In Tribal villages and Native communities, domestic violence rates are up to 10 times higher than the rest of the Nation—10 times higher.

So think about as bad as it is in areas that you are in, in our Tribal villages and some of the Native communities, these rates are staggering.

In 2015, it was estimated that 40 percent of sex trafficking victims were Native Americans. Now, I know 2015 was a few years ago, but 40 percent of the victims who have been sex trafficked were Native Americans.

The rate of sexual violence victimization among Alaska Native women is at least seven times greater than non-Native females in the State. So think about that. There is an unprecedented level of victimization, of assault, of violence, of murder that is experienced by Alaska Native women.

These are statistics that really should shock the conscience. I know they shock mine. I have been exposed to them for so many years, but it continues to shock.

We all know these are not just statistics. These are mothers, these are sisters, these are aunts, these are cousins, these are friends, and these are women who are being violated at rates that are unacceptable anywhere in any State.

Now, I mentioned that some of the statistics are old, and that is part of the problem, trying to understand what it is that we don't know, so we need to get updated data, but what isn't old—and, unfortunately, seemingly, every day we get new statistics that are added to what we have already known.

It was just last week family and friends packed an Anchorage courtroom for the arraignment of a man who had been charged with murdering 52-year-old Veronica Abouchuk. She was a Native woman originally from the village of St. Michael. She had been in Anchorage for a period of time. She had been reported missing earlier this year, and then she was found dead near the Old Glenn Highway in April.

It was just a few weeks ago now—maybe about 3 weeks ago—the Alaska community was just horrified as we

learned through the news of a video cartridge that had been found on a street, and what was revealed was a tape of torture and abuse of a Native woman.

That tape ultimately led to the arrest of this same man who is accused of killing Veronica. That video showed the torture and the murder of 30-year-old Kathleen Jo Henry. She was originally from a very small village, the village of Eek.

These are stories of women. We read about what they have experienced, what they have endured, and we think about their families who no longer have these women in their lives. You just can't view them in the abstract as statistics. What are we doing to respond to them as women, women who are vulnerable and are being preyed upon? What are we doing to act, to help?

I mentioned this is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In Alaska, we have started calling it Domestic Violence Action Month. Going from awareness to action is really the key because I am here to tell you, in Alaska, we are very aware of how severe the problem of violence against Native women is—whether it is domestic violence, an assault, to them being trafficked and murdered. We know the statistics.

When I am talking with Alaskans about what we are seeing with missing and murdered indigenous women, the subject of trafficking keeps coming into every conversation because that is, seemingly, what is happening to so many who unfortunately go missing.

There are far, far, far too many stories that we then hear they were trafficked and then ultimately murdered. This nexus is what is really frightening.

I mentioned the data and understanding what it is that we know and what we don't know—how big is the problem, what is happening with our Native women that they are being victimized to the extent and to the level we see. We are beginning to make some progress. We are beginning to gather more data and understanding.

There is a lot we know we have to learn, but one thing that has become clear is that these crimes are permeating cities across America. They are in the cities, but they are also in our small, remote, and rural communities.

There is really no geographic boundary that we are talking about here. Initially, we had thought the problem of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls was primarily a problem on the remote Indian reservations, but we had some good, strong reporting from the Seattle-based Urban Indian Health Institute. We learned a lot there about the gaps in the data. We learned that the number of Native women who go missing in urban centers is as significant as those who go missing on reservations or in rural areas.

In fact, last year there were 507 cases of Native women killed in urban areas.

Of those, 282 were confirmed murdered, 127 were confirmed missing, and 98 cases are still listed in an unknown status. These cases exist across 71 urban areas selected for the study—from Baltimore to Orlando in the east coast and all the way up to the North Slope in the community of Utqiagvik.

According to the report, Anchorage was among the top 10 cities identified in this study, coming in at No. 3, with 21 cases of missing and murdered indigenous girls. Overall, Alaska was the fourth highest State in the Nation with 52 cases. Keep in mind that these are just the cases that have actually been reported.

Making sure that we are understanding the extent of the problem and the issues we are dealing with, the spotlight we are shining on the issue of murdered indigenous women is growing, but we need to answer those questions so we can move from awareness to action.

What are we doing? How are we doing? We are keenly focused—I am, certainly, keenly focused—on what we can do to improve public safety in Alaska. As shocking as many of these statistics are that I have shared with you, what we know is that in far too many communities in our State we lack law enforcement presence. These are remote communities. These are small communities, maybe 300 people. When you don't have law enforcement, when there is nobody there who can administer justice, who can be the law, it is a safe place for bad people to go and do bad things.

What we do to address this is on all of us. So as we are looking at public safety in rural Alaska, I reminded Attorney General Barr when he participated in a video conference at the Alaska Federation of Natives convention a couple of weeks ago—he made the comment that we want to make sure we have public safety throughout Alaska and that a woman shouldn't have to move to the city to feel safe, and I had to remind him—that in the cities, unfortunately, we are not seeing the level of safety that we would seek.

But we are making some headway, and I want to share with colleagues what we have just done in this Interior appropriations bill that we moved through in the full Senate just this afternoon, and I thank colleagues for that support.

For the first time, we are directing real dollars to prioritize the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women. We have included a specific focus there within the Interior appropriations bill for FY 2020. We provide funding to address the crisis with support for cold case investigations, equipment, training, and background checks. This will be an effort where we will work with the Department of Justice, with the BIA, with the administration, with the State, and with the Tribes.

We also encourage the Indian Health Service to look at programs that can help educate community health aides

on trauma informed care, which also includes collecting medical evidence. Through the CJS approps bill that we passed, we build upon efforts to address the high rates of violence that are experienced in far too many Alaskan communities.

We have been advocating for the largest possible Victims of Crime Act fund set aside for Native communities that disproportionately face violence and have oftentimes extremely limited access to service.

We also secured significant funding for the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, and for State and local law enforcement and Tribal assistance, we provide additional resources, as well as resourcing for the COPS, or the Community Oriented Policing Services Program, which is an initiative to increase the number of police officers and ensure they are properly trained.

So I think we are making some headway on the appropriations side, but I think we know there is more that we can do. We know there is more that we must do.

I thank Attorney General Barr, who came up to the State of Alaska in May at the invitation of Senator SULLIVAN and myself and many of our leaders around the State, including our Tribal leaders, and he was able to sit down at roundtables in Anchorage and was able to get up to Fort Yukon, on the Yukon River, and come down to Bethel and to go out to the small village of Napakiak, a community of about 350 people.

Following his visit, he was so struck by what he had heard and what he had seen, and truly what he felt in his heart, that he moved forward with a designation of a public safety emergency in the State of Alaska. He has been working with us to help specifically address how we can make these rural communities safer and what we can be doing with everything from training to basic infrastructure. It is something we are working collaboratively on.

We are also seeing so many individuals, organizations, and communities really speaking up about this issue. Again, it is like the data. If you don't know it, you can't respond to it. If the stories aren't shared, as hard and awful as they are, it is difficult to know how we respond. There are so many who are speaking up in different ways to bring light to the fact that so many Native women have not received justice.

There is a woman by the name of Amber Webb that I met when I was in Fairbanks for the AFN conference. She has created this really powerful visual symbol to honor missing and murdered women. She sketched the faces of more than 200 missing and murdered indigenous women from across North America. She sketched them on a giant white qaspeq. Qaspeq is the traditional garb of a woman. She chose the qaspeq because it symbolizes the adaptability and the strength of Native women. It is

pretty impressive. It is about 15 feet high. But, again, it is a white qaspeq, with the portraits, the sketches, of these women.

In the center is the face of not a woman but a young girl, Ashley Johnson Barr. She was a 10-year-old girl who was kidnapped and killed in Kotzebue last year.

Being at Ashley's memorial services with the entire community of Kotzebue—it probably felt like the whole region—grieving the loss of that child in that brutal and awful murder in her home was something that never leaves you.

On one sleeve of the qaspeq is sketched the face of Sophie Sergei. Sophie was killed in 1993. She was at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in one of the dorms. Her case was cold for 25 years. For 25 years, her family had no idea who brutally killed her and left her in a bathtub of blood in a campus dorm room. That case broke loose with some DNA testing not too many months ago. Her family is hoping that one day there will be justice for their daughter, but the faces on that qaspeq represent way too many lives lost.

Some of what we are facing in Alaska, when it comes to public safety, is the lack of public safety in rural areas and an inability to ensure that people are safe in their homes. When you look at the statistics that we have, when you look at the issues you face, sometimes you have to say: Maybe the way we have been doing things for this long just isn't working out in these areas. Maybe there needs to be a different dynamic.

I recently introduced what we are calling the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act. It builds on a legislative provision that Congressman YOUNG has introduced. It is a pilot for Alaska Tribes to address violence against Native women. In that bill, we empower Tribes to exercise domestic violence criminal jurisdiction on a pilot basis, similar to what we did in VAWA 2013 for those in Indian Country. We allow Tribes to assume local control over local public safety matters. We cannot deny safety or justice to an individual based on jurisdictional issues. This addresses one critical piece, and that is the Tribal empowerment.

There is another very important element, and that is coordination among law enforcement agencies. I hear way too often from Alaskans who tell me that they don't actually count a missing Native woman as missing because the last time anybody saw her, she met somebody, she left a village, she went to Anchorage, and nobody really heard of her again. But what we know is that one of the most vulnerable times for these young women is the transition from a village to a hub community or to a city. We have heard from law enforcement that Native people, especially these young Native girls, are targeted by traffickers when they first arrive in Anchorage or Fairbanks or a

hub community. It is important that we both understand the scope of the problem and address coordination between our State, our Federal, and our Tribal governments. That is what Savanna's Act and this counterpart legislation, the Not Invisible Act, do together.

I reintroduced Savanna's Act with Senator CORTEZ MASTO earlier this year. This was an effort where I was proud to carry the torch for Senator Heitkamp, who has truly been a leader on this issue. Our bill combats the epidemic of murdered and missing Native women and girls by improving the Federal Government's response to addressing the crisis. Savanna's Act increases coordination among all levels of law enforcement, increases data collection in information sharing, and empowers Tribal governments with the resources they need in cases involving missing and murdered indigenous women and girls wherever they occurred.

This second bill that I mentioned, with Senator CORTEZ MASTO, is the Not Invisible Act. What we have seen for far too long is that Native families and communities mourn the loss of family members, sometimes with the resolution of their cases of a murdered sister or a missing loved one, but often the cases remain unsolved.

As I mentioned earlier, we were shocked in Alaska by the case of Kathleen Jo Henry and the related case of Veronica Abouchuk. But what is just as shocking is that the Abouchuk family has already—already—experienced the loss of one of their sisters, Martha Toms, who was killed in 2005 and whose case is still unsolved. So they have had tragedy compounded upon tragedy.

These bills, Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act, attempt to bring the issue of violence against Native women and the ongoing epidemic of missing and murdered Indians to the attention of the Nation. These families have faced unspeakable loss and, until recently, have felt almost invisible, frustrated, and really just let down by this system—the complex system that was supposed to protect them.

But to truly honor the memory of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind and acknowledge her family's loss, we have to close the jurisdictional loopholes that criminals exploit. We have to improve the coordination among law enforcement at all levels of government, and we have to provide the necessary resources.

The Not Invisible Act designates an official in BIA to coordinate violent crime prevention efforts across Federal agencies. It also establishes a commission of local, Tribal, and Federal stakeholders to make recommendations to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice on how to combat this epidemic of disappearances, homicides, violent crimes, and trafficking of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

We know we have a trust responsibility to our Native people, but also we

have a duty of moral trust when we talk about keeping all Americans safe. We all have to be part of the solution. By passing these bills, we are saying that we are not going to accept what we have dealt with and what we have faced for far too long.

I think we have to have a sense of urgency to keep Native women and girls safe. It shouldn't be anything that is partisan. There is nothing partisan about trying to protect women. There is nothing partisan about trying to protect Native women. There is nothing Republican or Democratic about the reality that we all deserve to have the same level of protection and justice as every other woman in this country.

So I am back here on the Senate floor with the same message I had a couple of years ago with Senator Heitkamp, and that is to urge colleagues to move beyond awareness to action. Let's take up Savanna's Act. Let's take up the Not Invisible Act. Let's act. Let's provide for the safety that all these women should expect.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4, 2019, AT 1 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 1 p.m. on Monday.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:48 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 4, 2019, at 1 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEPHEN E. BIEGUN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, VICE JOHN J. SULLIVAN.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 31, 2019:

IN THE ARMY

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

To be brigadier general

COL. ANDREW C. HILMES

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES B. HECKER

IN THE NAVY

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. GREGORY C. HUFFMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING AS SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY UNDER TITLE 10 U.S.C., SECTION 8077:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. BRUCE L. GILLINGHAM

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK C. SCHWARTZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. KARL KONZELMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RANDY A. GEORGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. EDWIN J. DEEDRICK, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JAMES E. RAINY

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. CHARLES A. RICHARD

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAVID B. MARTIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW W. STYLES AND ENDING WITH LINDSEY P. DAVIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF SHAYLA A. CANTY-SMITH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRAVIS M. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER D. UNDERWOOD II, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRANDON R. BURDEN, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN D. GRESSWELL AND ENDING WITH TESSA L. WINTERTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JASON M. ZHAO, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF SAMUEL H. BRIDGES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY J. CURRY AND ENDING WITH RYAN J. GARLOW, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN P. BERLAKOVICH AND ENDING WITH SCOTT J. RUMISEK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY M. DONELSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CESAR A. PATINO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN J. VOGEL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LANCE A. BROWN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GREGORY J. HIRSCHHEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL C. HAITH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER O. DORSEY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GALEN CIPPERLY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WAYNE J. HARSHA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAULA A. BOICE AND ENDING WITH CHUNAE ZOH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN E. BURK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RHIANNA K. RIGGS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF FATIMA H. KHAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEMETRIUS E. WALTON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY B. BATDORFF AND ENDING WITH ERIC W. WIDMAR, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH A. BURTON AND ENDING WITH RONALD C. VICARS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC L. RAHMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GUADALUPE RESENDEZ, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KATRINA A. PARLOW, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LESLIE E. AKINS AND ENDING WITH D014484, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW W. CASPARI AND ENDING WITH GLEN E. TEMPLETON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KENNETH J. BISKNER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NAYARI N. CAMERON AND ENDING WITH JUAN A. VILLATORO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DELENO M. HARPER, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES M. MCCANDLESS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JENS K. PEDERSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GRECO E. CARRERAS AND ENDING WITH PAUL E. GEBHARDT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES H. FEASTER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTA M. CHEWAR, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIK A. ERNEST, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSHUA D. HELSEL, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SCOTT T. MCCARTNEY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRODERICK L. GARDNER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KARA S. KRULEWICZ, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TATCHIE O. MANSO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EDUARDO OLVERA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF FRANCISCO RINCON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WALLACE W. ROLLINS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TAYLOR S. SCHENCK, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM D. SWENSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JAMES M. STEPHENS, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CARLOS T. JACKSON, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. TAGALOA, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PATCHO N. SANTIAGO, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRYAN A. BOLDON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. CRIBBS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRACKERY L. BATTLE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOEL D. MYERS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRYAN M. ALLRED AND ENDING WITH KENDRA M. YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARIO D. ADAME AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY M. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM H. ABBITT AND ENDING WITH RUBEN B. ZWEIBAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY W. AGHA AND ENDING WITH AMY L. YOUNGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KWADWO S. AGYEONG AND ENDING WITH SHAUN E. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRADLEY E. CHERRY AND ENDING WITH NEIL W. WHITESSELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HERNAN R. BORJA AND ENDING WITH BRIAN E. YEE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN T. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW A. STROUP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICK AVILA AND ENDING WITH ATHANASIOS R. VARVOUTIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL ADAMSKI, JR. AND ENDING WITH AUSTIN C. WEST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON C. ABELL AND ENDING WITH JAMES M. ZWEIFEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GARRETT L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH IRIS P. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019. NAVY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH L. COFFEY, TO BE CAPTAIN.