The House met at 8 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, November 5, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VAL BUTLER DEMINGS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Good and gracious God, You are the creator of all. May we see Your face in all of creation and protect it as Your sacred gift. Most of all, may we see Your face in our brothers and sisters across the globe and across the aisle. May we love them as You do, and thus, come to know Your divine and everlasting peace. We pray this in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 656, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, November 1, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to inform you that I have notified California Governor Gavin Newsom of my resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives, effective November 3, 2019. I came to Congress as part of an unprecedented movement—one that proved the country was ready for a new kind of leader. As one of the youngest members of Congress, the first openly LGBTQ woman elected to Congress from California, and a first-time candidate with no family background in wealth or politics who rejected corporate PAC money to focus on the priorities of individual people, my goal was to show every constituent that they have a voice and a place in the halls of power. I could not be prouder of what we accomplished together and what it means for the future of our country.

Working tirelessly for the people of California’s 25th Congressional District has been the honor of my lifetime, and my service to California and the nation does not end here. My decision to resign my post is guided by my commitment to doing the most good for the most people, no matter how hard it is. As I turn my attention to other battles for now, I leave with deep gratitude and commitment to the success and well-being of my wonderful community and my incredible colleagues, especially my fellow members of the freshman class who have brought unprecedented promise, vigor, and vision to Congress. I will continue to fight for them, for our ideals, and for a better America for all. I look forward to continuing our important work together long into the future, wherever the road may take us.

Sincerely,

KATIE HILL, Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL) the whole number of the House is 431.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 4, 2019.

Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear Madam Speaker: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary on November 4, 2019, at 1:35 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3423.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3055.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, pursuant to the section 4(b) of House Resolution 656, the House stands adjourned until 1 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019.

Thereupon (at 8 o’clock and 4 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, November 8, 2019, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2831. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s final rules — Consumer Leasing (Regulation M) received October 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2832. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s final rules — Information Reporting for Certain Financial Instruments (Regulation Y) received October 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2833. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s final rules — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) received October 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2834. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Annual Report on the Utilization of Federal Technology for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 3700(g)(2); Public Law 96-480, Sec. 11(g)(2) (as added by Public Law 106-164, Sec. 10(a)(3)); (114 Stat. 1748); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.


2836. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled; “Drug Shortages: Root Causes and Potential Solutions”, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2837. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Foreign High-value Tuna, a report declared in Executive Order 13851 of November 27, 2018, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1614(c); Public Law 94-58, Sec. 203(a) and 63 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2838. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-0M, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2839. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-72, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2840. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-65, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2841. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-56, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2842. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for General Law, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-205, Sec. 151(b); (110 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2843. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-205, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2844. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Closure of the Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; and North Atlantic Right Whale Protection Zone; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2845. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Adjustment to Premium Processing Fee (CIS No.: 2669-19; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2019-0018) (RIN: 1615-ZB81) received October 31, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2846. A letter from the Acting Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report advising that the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-4222-EM in the State of Georgia has exceeded the limit for a single emergency declaration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5195(b)(3); Public Law 93-391, Sec. 505(b)(3) (as amended by Public Law 104-100, Sec. 203(2); 110 Stat. 4707); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2847. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s final regulations — Information Reporting for Certain Insurance Contract Transactions and Other Financial Arrangements; Modifications to the Transfer for Valuable Consideration Rules [TD 9879] (RIN: 1545-BO49) received October 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 4355. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes; with an amendment (H. R. 6566). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

H8728 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE November 5, 2019
Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 4372. A bill to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake efforts to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation’s HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 4373. A bill to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership and global engagement in science, engineering, and technology; with an amendment (Rept. 116–370). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 4978. A bill to provide for individual rights relating to privacy of personal information, and security and access requirements for covered entities relating to personal information, and to establish an agency to be known as the United States Digital Privacy Protection Agency to enforce such rights and requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. MCDAMAS, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. COMER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 4979. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support workforce development and education grants to support STEM workforce development research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. DAVIS of Illinois (for herself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. BARRS, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. ESTES, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BACON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 4980. A bill to assist States, tribes, territorial governments, and cities in implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Mr. WALKER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MEAD- wood, and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 4981. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. LANDRY of Louisiana, Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 4982. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for treatment of certain respiratory protective devices as covered countermeasures for purposes of targeted liability protections for pandemic and epidemic products and security countermeasures; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. GALLETT, Mr. GOSS, Mr. STANTON, Mr. GELLA, Mrs. LÉSKE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. O’HALLERAN, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 4983. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Health Care Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. MING, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SIERRANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 4984. A bill to increase the supply of, and lower rents for, affordable housing and to adjust calculations of area median income for purposes of Federal low-income housing assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DeLAURO (for herself, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LAWSON of Connecticut, and Mr. GARCIA):

H.R. 4985. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish, at the request of an eligible veteran, nursing home care and hospital care at State licensed or certified residential care facilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SCHAROWSKY, and Mr. GARCELS):

H.R. 4986. A bill to authorize appropriations for climate financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself, Mr. GOMEZ of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. ESTES, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BACON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 4987. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Walnut Street in Bordentown, New Jersey, as the "Clark Barton Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 4988. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant to a health care organization to promote student access to defibrillation in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KURIKI (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. Res. 679. A resolution expressing support for designation of November 7 as annual "Victims of Communism Memorial Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 4976. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which provides Congress with the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 4979. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 4980. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. The Congress shall have Power "To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 4981. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause VII

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 4982. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 4983. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4984. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DELAURO:

H.R. 4985. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GOMEZ of California:

H.R. 4986. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. Res. 679. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 7 provides Congress with the power to establish post offices and post roads.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 4989.

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

"Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 3: Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 435: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 561: Mr. KIM.
H.R. 737: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1034: Ms. L OFGREN and Mr. T HOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1042: Mrs. B EATTY, Ms. P INGREE, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1139: Mr. L UJA´N and Mr. H ARDER of California.
H.R. 1171: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1243: Ms. VE LÁZQUIZ.
H.R. 1342: Ms. LOF ORREN.
H.R. 1379: Ms. HOULAHAN and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 1516: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1554: Mr. SIBES.
H.R. 1643: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1871: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1953: Mr. MERKS.
H.R. 2056: Mrs. DEMING.
H.R. 2062: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.
H.R. 2113: Mr. AMOREL.
H.R. 2124: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 2153: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2201: Mr. COMER, Mr. VELA, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 2339: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2350: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 2579: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 2645: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 2721: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 2816: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 2823: Mr. TETUS.
H.R. 2846: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2986: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 2995: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2996: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3048: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 3077: Ms. WILD and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3086: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3107: Mr. AMOREL, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Ms. MTSUL.
H.R. 3165: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. LOHRE SACK.
H.R. 3373: Mr. LANG EYIN.
H.R. 3489: Mr. WO MACK.
H.R. 3498: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. FORTEN BURY.
H.R. 3749: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 3757: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3760: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 3960: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4104: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4105: Mr. LANG EYIN.
H.R. 4165: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 4177: Ms. DINGELL.
H.R. 4187: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 4248: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 4372: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 4674: Mr. GALLEG O and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4730: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 4734: Mr. WALKER, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 4810: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 4862: Mr. MCCAUL and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 4903: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SPANO, and Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 4936: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4939: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 4943: Miss GONZALEZ-COLO´N of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 4948: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 4949: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.J. Res. 38: Mr. NADLER.
H. Res. 565: Mr. SMUCKER.
H. Res. 653: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H. Res. 676: Mr. CLOUD and Mr. GOODEN.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

58. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to urging Congress to enact federal legislation which would require (1) a simple vote of the full U.S. House of Representatives before any impeachment-related activity may commence; (2) that the target of formal impeachment proceedings and/or that target’s legal representatives, be permitted to produce supportive witnesses and to examine or cross-examine any witness; (3) that the target of impeachment-related activities be allowed representation of legal counsel; (4) etc.; which was referred to the Committee on Rules.
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.

Eternal God, You look down from Heaven upon humanity's children, seeking for those to use for Your glory. May our lawmakers live with such faithfulness that they will be Your redemptive instruments at a time when truth seems a rare commodity.

May You find delight in those who by faith trust You to make the crooked places straight and the rough places smooth. Lead our Senators to a fresh dedication in their service to You and humanity. Grant that justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your great 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 30 seconds.

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

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK
Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, veterans, meaning our veterans of war or veterans in uniform who have not been in a war environment, have a big impact on the American economy. There are 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses in the United States that account for more than $1.1 trillion in revenue. In Iowa, there are 26,119 veteran-owned businesses that employ 51,801 people and bring in $10.9 million. Iowa is working hard to attract veterans and help them start and expand their businesses. I honor these hardworking entrepreneurs who have served our country by joining my colleagues in recognizing this week, the week of November 4, as National Veterans Small Business Week.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, the Senate will continue its work in the personnel business and confirm more of the President's outstanding nominees to the Federal judiciary.

Since our Democratic colleagues chose last week to filibuster defense funding and block the Senate from even considering legislation to fund our Armed Forces, we will turn our focus to confirmations while we wait for progress from them on appropriations.

Leading off the week, the Senate will have the opportunity to confirm another standout Kentuckian to the Federal bench, this time to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Judge David Tapp has just about done it all since he first became a State judge nearly 15 years ago. He has heard cases at multiple levels of the State's judiciary, ruling on a wide range of issues. As a volunteer drug court judge, Judge Tapp has earned national praise for promoting long-term recovery in the courtroom. He has also developed a sterling reputation for fairness throughout Kentucky and around the country.

Now David will bring a lifetime of public service and achievement to the Court of Federal Claims, where I am confident he will continue making us all proud. I look forward to voting to confirm him later today and hope our colleagues will join me.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATION
Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter, last week the Nation saw several pivotal moments that shed light on the current state of the Democratic Party. Here in the Senate, as I mentioned, Democrats chose to filibuster funding for our national defense for the second time in 2 months. This funding was agreed to in the bipartisan, bicameral deal that Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader signed onto just a few months ago, but now they have walked away from the agreement they signed and filibustered funding for our military commanders.

Yesterday, we saw the Iranian regime celebrate—celebrate—the 40th anniversary of the taking of the American Embassy and the beginning of the Iranian hostage crisis. The familiar slogan, "Death to America," was on full display. It was especially sobering to watch this display and remember that our own U.S. military commanders do not have the certainty they need for strategic planning because Democrats here in Washington found it politically advantageous to block it.

Over in the House, Speaker PELOSI continues to stall the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. USMCA would bring tens of billions in new commerce and create 176,000 new American jobs, but House Democrats would rather pursue...
political theater. So American workers and farmers are still waiting.

However, while our Democratic colleagues block these bipartisan priorities, at least they are not shy about what they do support. We have seen what our priorities are. We remember the Green New Deal, an effort to grab unprecedented control over American families’ daily lives. Designing, building, or furnishing a home or business? Democrats want Washington to dictate that. Commuting, traveling for vacation, mowing your lawn? They would like you to do that without gasoline or jet fuel sooner rather than later. Make a living producing, refining, or delivering affordable American energy? They want you to find another line of work whether you like it or not. That is the Green New Deal.

There is also the matter of Medicare for None. That is the scheme that would take the program that millions of Americans rely on, blow away everything except the label, and paste that onto a new, one-size-fits-all, Washington-run insurance plan that would be mandatory for every American. Medicare, gone. Private plans and the popular Medicare Advantage Program, gone. Every health insurance plan that Americans get on the job, which over 180 million people depend on, gone.

This is literally what several of the leading Democratic Presidential contenders have endorsed—a new nationwide experiment in socialism. And every single American—man, woman, and child—would be the subject of this experiment, whether that is what we want for our families or not. From this mandatory one-size-fits-all insurance plan to new price controls that would limit lifesaving cures, our Democratic colleagues are rallying around policies that would leave American families paying more to wait longer for medical care. That is their prescription—paying more to wait longer for worse care.

Then, if these plans weren’t bad enough on the merits, there is the small issue of the crushing new tax burden you would have to pile onto the U.S. economy in order to make some effort to pay for all of this. One leading Democrat released a breathtaking proposal last week that illustrates the road they would like to head down. This Democrat’s Medicare for None plan on its own, notwithstanding all the other socialist plans—just the healthcare plan—would cost $2 trillion over the first 10 years alone. That is the candidate’s own estimate—$2 trillion over 10 years.

Even after cannibalizing everything the government currently spends on healthcare, the plan’s author admits there would still be a staggering $20-plus trillion left over to finance. Other experts say it would be more. For some perspective if you add up every cent that is deposited in every commercial bank across the United States of America, that is about $13 trillion. So you could literally seize—seize—every dollar that Americans have deposited in banks and you would have nowhere near enough money to pay for even the first decade of this crazy experiment. Democrats are confident they can produce this much money through historic tax increases on job creators and on the American people.

It would be an enormous—enormous—new tax burden dumped on the U.S. economy that would kill jobs, depress workers’ wages, make America less competitive literally for generations to come.

At the exact time when Republican tax reform has made the United States more competitive and boosted prosperity here at home, Democrats want to take us backward and make our Nation a less attractive place to create jobs.

Here is what Larry Summers, a former Treasury Secretary under President Clinton, wrote about this far-left plan in the Washington Post:

(It) will discourage hiring, particularly of low-skilled workers. . . . There is . . . the real risk of a contraction following a sharp market decline.

That is Larry Summers, the Clinton Treasury Secretary. Particularly, it would discourage hiring, particularly of low-skilled workers, and a sharp market decline. So in order to take away employer-sponsored insurance from 180 million Americans, Democrats want to kill American jobs and bring the economy to a screeching halt.

Look, I would implore my friends across the aisle to put aside this destructive socialism and join us in the current work that needs doing right now for the American people. We have a landmark trade agreement that needs passing. We have U.S. Armed Forces that need funding. We are just waiting on our Democratic colleagues to show up.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.
that are so essential to America’s national security interests.

We have a filibuster being conducted by the Senate Democrats. It needs to be stopped. We need to move forward with the Defense appropriations bill, and the Senate Democrats will all come to the conclusion that this is the right thing to do, not only for the Senate but, more importantly, for our country.

**FILTER BUBBLE TRANSPARENCY ACT**

Madam President, the internet has brought a host of benefits; a wealth of information at our fingertips, unparalleled convenience, new opportunities for education and commerce, and innumerable new methods of communication. But I don’t need to tell anyone that along with the countless benefits of the internet have come a number of concerns.

One thing that is on the mind of many consumers is privacy. As the internet gradually permeates every area of our lives, internet companies become the repository for an ever-increasing amount of our personal data and our personal information, from what we ate for dinner last night to the temperature we like to keep in our house.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I spent a lot of time focusing on privacy issues this past June. I convened a hearing entitled “Optimizing for Engagement: Understanding the Use of Persuasive Technology on Internet Platforms.”

At that hearing, we heard from a variety of experts about the ways companies use consumers’ personal data to determine what individuals see online. As I said at the time, one reason I decided to hold the hearing was to inform legislation I was developing that would require internet platforms to give consumers the option to engage without having the experience shaped by algorithms that are driven by their user-specific data.

Last Thursday, I introduced that legislation, called the Filter Bubble Transparency Act, here in the Senate. I am proud to have a number of bipartisan cosponsors on this bill. Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator MORAN, Senator BLACKBURN, and Senator WARNER have all cosponsored this legislation, and I am grateful for their support.

The Filter Bubble Transparency Act is designed to address one aspect of the privacy problem, the issues that arise from internet companies’ use of consumers’ personal information to shape what consumers see on their platforms. Many people are unaware that much of the content they see on the internet is determined by sophisticated algorithms and artificial intelligence that draw on data about each consumer’s online activity.

For example, a recent Pew Research Center study found that 53 percent of U.S. adults don’t understand how Facebook News Feed works. Many of us know that Netflix is curating information and recommendations specifically for us based on the movies and the shows that we watch. They use past behavior to project what future behavior is going to be, and they take all that information to curate it. Then, they use that to recommend certain things that we might want to see.

A lot of us are aware that Amazon is delivering product recommendations based on our purchase history. In other words, what you buy, they see online, you see the ads for the types of things that you buy online. But the reality is that internet companies have moved far beyond just recommending TV shows or just recommending things that you might want to purchase. Increasingly, every aspect of our online experience is personalized based on the vast amount of information that companies collect about us—from our age and occupation to how many times we visit certain websites.

The data used by these companies to make predictions about us comes from a wide range of sources—from smart devices like Alexa, Google Assistant, Ring doorbells, and Nest devices; data from emails and documents; data acquired from third parties, like banks, credit card processors, and health data services, among many other sources. This data is used to make statistical predictions about how we are going to behave in the future.

This statistical prediction-making is happening on a massive scale. For example, Facebook has stated that the artificial intelligence that it uses for its News Feed can make 6 million predictions per second. Billions of people on internet platforms are being fed content on internet platforms that is basically selected for them by algorithms trying to make predictions about what will keep each user engaged on the platform. Clearly, there is no way anyone can support a platform that is meant to enhance engagement, also have the ability, or at least the potential, to influence the thoughts and behaviors, literally, of billions of people.

That is why there is widespread unease about the power of these platforms and why it is important for the public to better understand how these platforms use the information they collect to make predictions about our behavior.

As I said, a significant cause for concern is that most people are not always aware that the information they see is being filtered. We are trapped in what one observer has termed the “filter bubble,” our own private world of filtered search results and tailored content, without even knowing that we are there.

There are real concerns that the ever-increasing use of filters to shape our internet experience contributes to political polarization, social isolation, and addiction, as well as permitting companies to manipulate user behavior.

My bill, the Filter Bubble Transparency Act, takes aim at these concerns by requiring major internet platforms to notify consumers that the information they are seeing is being selected specifically for them using filters based on their personal data. It would also require these sites to give consumers the option of seeing unfiltered results.

Twitter provides a good example of what the Filter Bubble Transparency Act will do. Twitter gives consumers the option to view an unfiltered timeline through the use of a prominently displayed icon that is easy to access throughout a user’s time on that particular platform. Consumers have the option of viewing the timeline that Twitter has curated for them, which pushes the posts that Twitter thinks they want to see to the top of their feed or viewing an unfiltered timeline that features all posts in a chronological order.

That is the kind of option that my bill would give the consumer on other types of social media platforms. Consumers will be able to choose whether to see an unfiltered social media feed or search results or whether to view the curated or personalized content that is filtered up for them. It would be an option. We believe this gives consumers more choice and more control. They would be able to easily switch back and forth between the two options whenever they wanted. After all, consumers need as much information as possible, including a better understanding of how internet platforms use artificial intelligence and complex filters to shape the information that those users see and receive.

My bill would provide transparency and consumer control without jeopardizing the opportunity and innovation that we have come to expect from the tech industry. As internet companies come up with more and more of our personal information, it is important that consumers know how their data is being used. At an even more basic level, it is important for consumers to know that their data is being used to curate the content they see.

That is exactly what the Filter Bubble Transparency Act would do—allow
consumers online to know, one, that their information is being filtered and that they are seeing content that is being curated for them by that particular social media platform, and, two, give them an option to see unfiltered and uncurated content that would be given to them in normal chronological order.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation. I think it is an important first step in making sure that consumers know more about the information that is being collected and how it is being used by internet companies. I will continue to work as we try to deal with this broader debate on data privacy, which is so important in the online world in which we live.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The junior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I return to the floor again this week to discuss Congress’s progress on important legislation—or, rather, the lack of it—since the obsession with impeaching the President began.

When the House decided to proceed full steam ahead on impeachment, they promised that it wouldn’t interfere with our ability to get other important work done for our constituents. While it has been less than a week since the House formally authorized their impeachment inquiry, the crusade to impeach the President and remove him started nearly 3 years ago.

For example, on January 20, which was actually Inauguration Day, 2017, at 12:19 p.m. the Washington Post ran the story with the headline “The Campaign to Impeach President Trump Has Begun.” That was on Inauguration Day in 2017. Nineteen minutes into his Presidency, the writing wasn’t only on the wall. It was on the front page of the Washington Post.

Our Democratic friends are on a kamikaze mission to get President Trump out of office less than a year before the next election. In the process, they are preventing Congress from solving the big problems facing the American people.

The latest casualty of this impeachment-at-all-costs strategy is a bill I introduced with my Democratic colleague from Connecticut, BLUMENTHAL, called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act. This legislation would lower the cost of Americans’ prescription medication and save more than a half billion dollars in taxpayer money.

Here, in the Senate, it counts the Democratic whip, Senator DURBIN from Illinois, as well as the Assistant Democratic Leader, Senator MURRAY from Washington State, as cosponsors. With that kind of lineup, you would think this would be a no-brainer. Unfortunately, drug pricing legislation isn’t the only consensus effort that has gotten caught up in impeachment mania.

For example, the Violence Against Women Act has provided resources to assist women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Unsurprisingly, this program has consistently maintained broad bipartisan support. There is agreement that we must do more to provide services and protection for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, but it is safe to say that there are disagreements on how best to accomplish that goal.

Those differences in opinion came to a head in February of this year. We were fresh off the heels of the longest government shutdown in history and working to fund the government through the rest of the year, but our Democratic colleagues threw a curve ball when they insisted that we should not include a temporary extension of the Violence Against Women Act, which had expired in September of 2018.

Even amid the political jockeying we have been seeing in this Congress, this was a shocking omission. Republicans were in favor of a short-term reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which is part of the Appropriations package for the Department of Justice. Fortunately, through the remainder of the year, but Republicans were not willing to support reauthorization. Surprisingly, our Democratic colleagues in the House blocked this reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. So it expired.

Fortunately, though, our friends on the Appropriations Committee have continued to fully fund these programs, but the authorizing statute has expired because of this gamesmanship. Despite continued bipartisan negotiations led by the Senator from Iowa, Ms. Ernst, over the last 8 months, we haven’t been able to come up with a consensus agreement to reauthorize the program on a long-term basis.

This has been an 8-month negotiation. This isn’t all that complicated. We should be able to do it in the space of an afternoon, but, clearly, there is no desire to get this resolved.

Reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act is a top priority for Members on both sides of the aisle, and I hope we will work harder to make it happen rather than to use this important law to play partisan political games. Sadly, the Violence Against Women Act is not the only program to get caught up in the political crosshairs.

The Debbie Smith Act, another traditionally bipartisan bill here in the Senate, expired at the end of September because of the refusal of the House to take up the Senate-passed version and to send it to the President.

The Debbie Smith Act, another top priority for Members on both sides of the aisle, and I hope we will work harder to make it happen. First, the Debbie Smith Act, after the pressure on them became unbearable. I am glad they changed their minds, and I hope we can get this bill to the President’s desk soon. Although I would have welcomed less drama this time around, the Debbie Smith Act reauthorization will hopefully be an example of what Congress can accomplish when you put partisan political fights aside and work for our constituents; in other words, do the job we were elected to do when our constituents sent us here.

It is really disappointing that some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather relitigate the 2016 election—again, less than a year before the next election—rather than do the work of the American people. This obsession with impeachment mania has consumed our Democratic colleagues and is preventing us from getting work done on a nonpartisan basis. That is what our constituents want us to do.

Texans are worried about high prescription costs, worried about the state of our roads and bridges, and worried about our national security. In the case of the Democratic leader, I would be willing to wager that New Yorkers are worried about many of these issues too. So it is time to stop the partisan games. They don’t result in pay raises for our troops, which have now been voted against twice by our Democratic colleagues. They don’t advance victims’ rights and give justice to survivors like the reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act and the Violence Against Women Act would do. They don’t increase the public’s trust in our institutions of government and assure them that we really have their best interests at heart. Definitely, these games don’t help make Americans’ lives better.

We have heard our Democratic colleagues say ad nauseam that impeachment will not interfere with their ability to legislate, but the evidence suggests otherwise. What Americans want is action. What Americans want is for us to do our job. We can give them what they want by allowing legislation we know has a chance of becoming law, such as my drug pricing bill, the Debbie Smith Act, and the Violence Against Women Act to come to the floor, get passed, and sent to the President. That would be doing our jobs, and that is what our constituents want from each of us—not this single-minded obsession with impeachment that started the day the President was
sworn into office, less than 1 year before the next election. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. SMITH of Iowa. Madam President, before I begin my remarks today, I do want to thank the senior Senator from Texas for his remarks on the Violence Against Women Act and the Debbie Smith Act. I think it is vitally important that both of those acts are reauthorized this year and the sooner the better so our advocates can get their work done. Thank you very much for those remarks.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, last week we saw our Democratic colleagues once again playing politics ahead of the defense of our great Nation. They are putting their actions ahead of the support that we need to give to those who defend our Nation. For the second time this year, as has already been stated today, Senate Democrats have blocked funding for our servicemembers. The kickers, folks, is that the vote they blocked was one that would have simply allowed us to debate the issue. It sounds unbelievable even while saying it now, folks, but it is the sad reality of where we are today.

What message does it send to our men and women in uniform when every single Senator of the Democratic Party votes against providing the funding our troops need to keep us and our adversaries? It sends programs critical to our national defense strategy, for the largest military pay raise in 10 years—which our troops more than deserve after nearly two decades of fighting for their country.

When I was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in the early days of the war on terror, the most important thing was not only to ensure my soldiers and I had the right training and equipment to carry out our missions but knowing, without a doubt, that the American people and the policymakers of government who sent us to war stood behind us and supported us every step of the way. It was placing faith in our country’s leadership to make the sound decisions to effectively employ military force and to have the will, the resolve, and the tenacity to make tough decisions without regard to politics.

The decision of the Democrats last week to once again open debate on what our troops need to fight and win is so sorely disappointing. What will it take in order to get our servicemembers at home and abroad the resources they need? Will we really deprive our troops of critical training opportunities to home their readiness in the most dangerous strategic environment since the end of the Cold War?

Will we actively aid our enemies by failing to fund those things which we have identified as critical to maintaining an edge against our adversaries? It is absolutely unacceptable that Democrats would even entertain these possibilities. If they want to have a debate, let’s have a debate, but to say they support the troops and then obstruct the ability to discuss in this Chamber what our servicemembers need doesn’t even add up.

That is why I am on the floor today to call upon all of my colleagues who sank the prospects of defense funding to come down and do the job that all of us were sworn to do when we took our oath of office. It is time to give our troops what they need to do their jobs. It is time to stop running this government through wasteful continuing resolutions in an increasingly dangerous world.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we need to pass the FUTURE Act to help students in historically Black colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, and we need to do that now.

I am here to advocate on behalf of Maryland’s four HBCUs that face a funding cliff due to congressional inaction. Without the immediate passage of the FUTURE Act, Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore face a collective $4.2 million funding shortfall now that the Higher Education Act’s authorization for mandatory funding for these institutions lapsed October 1 of this year.

This clean, bipartisan, and paid-for 2-year authorization gives breathing room to continue to negotiate the full reauthorization of the Higher Education Act without holding these historically underfunded institutions hostage.

Our HBCUs and MSIs know they can count on this mandatory funding each year to strengthen their course offerings and in-demand STEM programs, make infrastructure improvements, and provide academic counseling and student support services at first-generation and historically underrepresented students.

Throwing the budgets of these institutions into chaos directly harms their ability to serve their students and communities. Institutions would have to make decisions about potentially reducing levels of academic services, delaying needed infrastructure investments, and make longstanding staffing decisions. These decisions are being made all across the country at the colleges of each of our States. Collectively, the MSIs risk losing out on $235 million in mandatory funding. This is an unnecessary obstacle our HBCUs and MSIs do not need to face. We have a paid-for available for us today to address this issue.

We can get this done now. The House is prepared to accept this 2-year extension, which gives us a chance to negotiate a complete reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. But do not hold these institutions hostage with the mandatory funding that is provided by law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 212, H.R. 2486; that the Murray amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee. Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I thank the distinguished Senator from Maryland for giving me this opportunity to present a way to help historically Black colleges and universities, and I intend to do that when he is finished speaking about this and explain what we can do together.

Unfortunately, the bill he proposes is a shortcut the House took, which has no way to pass the Senate. It is based upon a budget gimmick and uses a method of funding that many Senators object to. It creates a new funding cliff within 23 months, and it is unnecessary because the Secretary of Education has written all of the heads of historically Black colleges and universities to say that there are sufficient funds until next September so there is no funding problem.

This gives me an opportunity—which I will do in just a moment—to suggest the right way to do it. The right way to do it is to do permanent funding of historically Black colleges and universities in a package of bills I have introduced. That package includes other legislation—which I will discuss when my time comes—which include simplifying the FAFSA.

It is a bill Senator JONES and I have introduced which will help 20 million families, including almost every student at a historically Black college or minority-serving institution. The bill package also includes grants for prisoners and short-term Pell grants, and it simplifies the student aid letters.

This package is ready. It includes short-term Pell grants, as I mentioned. This package has been put together by a number of Democratic and Republican Senators. It is ready to pass the Senate and ready for the President to sign it. It permanently funds Black colleges and universities instead of this shortcut.

In the meantime, I will talk more about that, but in the meantime, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.
Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I greatly respect the chairman of the committee. I know of his sincerity in dealing with higher education and education in our country, but the issue is pretty simple. Without the continuation of mandatory funding as provided by current law, historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions cannot rely upon the funding source the chairman is talking about. There are going to be tough decisions, we have to make trade-offs on infrastructure improvements, tough decisions on staffing, and there is no need for it.

We all agree that mandatory funding should continue. I am all for that. An extension. This UC will give us the 2-year window to make sure we pass the Higher Education Act reauthorization to fund that.

The issues the chairman is going to talk about are all things that are under discussion and debate that have to be worked out between the members of his committee, the floor, and reconciliation between the House and the Senate. In the meantime, historically Black colleges and universities that have historically been minority-serving institutions will suffer. I fully support what the chairman is trying to do getting matters accomplished, but if I understand the unanimous consent he will be asking for, it doesn’t deal with all the issues that need to be dealt with. We have to fully address the challenges students face with college access, affordability, accountability, and campus safety. The chairman’s bill does not meet that test and limits what we could do in the future to meaningfully address the cost of attending and succeeding in college. The bill continues to let the realities of getting a college degree—the challenges are all the same, housing, food text books—go unaddressed for our country’s growing diversity of students, including student veterans, students with disabilities, students of color, and students of low-income families or those who are the first in their families to attend college. I agree with the chairman. Let’s bring the Higher Education Act forward and debate it but don’t hold these institutions that have historically been discriminated against hostage to a program we all agree needs to be continued.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, why would we hold hostage bipartisan legislation that would simplify the FAFSA from 108 questions to 18 to 30—why would we hold hostage bipartisan legislation that would simplify the Federal aid letters so you don’t get a letter in the mail, if you are living in Maryland or Tennessee, and think you have a grant you don’t have to pay back, when in fact it is a loan you do have to pay back. We also agree on increasing the maximum Pell grant. We also agree on how to pay for it. We also agree on permanent funding for the historically Black colleges and institutions in a way that the Budget Committee can easily approve, and it can pass the Senate. If we can agree on all that and it all helps students at historically Black colleges and minority-serving institutions, then why don’t we pass it? Why don’t we do that? Why do we come up with a short-term, gimmick-supported, House-passed bill that sets up a new cliff? Why don’t we take a permanent funding, with a Budget Committee-approved method of paying for it, and do some other things that we have been working on for 5 years in a bipartisan way? This is not an Alexander proposal. This is a package of proposals by 29 Senators—17 Democrats and 12 Republicans. It is ready to pass the Senate; it is ready to be worked on with the House of Representatives; and it is ready to be signed by the President of the United States.

Let me add this. The Secretary of Education and people seem to ignore this, has written all the presidents of the historically Black colleges and said there is enough money in the bank to pay for all their funding until next September. So we have nearly a year to do this the right way instead of the wrong way. We are not on vacation. I know everybody is talking about impeachment, but we have lots of students around this country who would like to have a simpler way to go to college. We have lots of historically Black institutions and minority-serving institutions that would like to have a permanent method of funding. We have lots of employers and potential employees who want a short-term Pell grant.

Simplifying FAFSA would actually add, according to the Congressional Budget Office, 250,000 Pell grants, and it would increase the number of Americans who are the maximum Pell grant. All that is ready to go. All that is ready to go so why don’t we do that instead?

I thank the Senator from Maryland for giving me an opportunity to have a reason to bring a package of bills with permanent funding of the historically Black colleges and universities paid for, not by a gimmick, but by a Budget Committee-approved method that President Obama both had in their budgets.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2557

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2557—that is my bill—and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill providing permanent funding for historically Black colleges and universities and other matters 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in preserving the right to object and for the reasons I have already stated, there will be ample time to bring up the permanent reauthorization of the funding for historically Black colleges and universities and minority institutions. That is why the unanimous consent for which I asked was for 2 years.

My party doesn’t control the activities on the floor of the Senate. This reauthorization bill is going to take some time on the floor. We are going to have to deal with amendments, and we are going to have to deal with the differences between the House and the Senate. There is no other category of expenditures that is mandatory of this nature to underserved and historically discriminated institutions that is being held hostage as we debate a broader bill. I think this is a truly unique circumstance and should not be held hostage.

We need to have a way of debating these issues to make sure that in a reauthorization that occurs only every so often within the Higher Education Act that we deal with the current gaps we have for diversity—for students with disabilities, for students of color, for student veterans, for low-income families, and for those who are the first in their families to attend college.

For those reasons, I object to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, we have been working for 5 years, for example, on simplifying the Federal aid form that students fill out to go to college—5 years. We have bipartisan support for it in the Senate and in the House. We have families who, in my State, will be discouraged from going to college because of this complex form.

Why don’t we pass it? It is important to fund historically Black colleges; that is true. They have funding for another year. So why don’t we add to that, the simplifying of the FAFSA form, which, I would imagine, 95 percent of the students in historically Black colleges have to fill out every year? In addition to that, they have this verification process that they go through during the Federal tax form, everybody could be checked with the IRS one thing and the Department of Education another so that they jerk their aid. They think that is important.
I have the president of a community college in Memphis who tells me he loses 1,500 students a year because of the burdensome nature of the application.

Former Governor Bill Haslam, of Tennessee—our State—has the highest percentage of students who fill out the FAFSA, which is the Federal aid form for grants and loans. He says the single biggest impediment toward there being free tuition for 2 years of college in our State is the complex FAFSA.

I don’t think it is unreasonable to say, while we help students at historically Black colleges, that we help those same students by simplifying their FAFSAs. Why do we—giving more than the short-term Pell grant that Senator Kaine and Senator Portman and a dozen other Senators, including the Senator from Maryland, have introduced? Why don’t we increase the size of the Pell grant in a way that we agreed upon way? In other words, don’t we have to discuss something until we find something we can’t agree on. Why don’t we take the things we do agree on, which are considered in the package that the Senator just objected to, and pass them?

There are 29 Senators—more Democrats than Republicans—who have formed these bills. If we can add to that other pieces of legislation, let’s do it. Yet let’s take the permanent funding for historically Black colleges—the simplification of the FAFSA, the short-term Pell grants, and the Pell grants for prisoners—we give them.

As I said, we are not on vacation. We should be able to do this in the next few weeks or in the next few months. I mean, how long does it take just to pass something we already agree on? It shouldn’t take us very long.

I am disappointed that the Senator has objected. I hope to keep coming to the floor and asking for the Senate to approve it. More importantly, I hope to keep working with the distinguished Senator from Washington State on our Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. We have often been able to work these matters out even when they are contentious and offered to the Senate a bipartisan package. I hope we can do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate MG Jeff Burton, a man of remarkable achievement and character, on a career dedicated to public service. After 7 years of serving as the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, General Burton leaves behind a distinguished legacy.

The Utah National Guard provides military forces that are ready to assist both State and Federal authorities in times of emergency and in times of war. It is comprised of 7,300 soldiers and airmen from the Utah Army National Guard and the Utah Air National Guard.

As adjutant general, Major General Burton oversaw the training and military preparation of soldiers and airmen throughout the State. He is a principled and dedicated leader who has set a high standard of conduct for the men and women under his command.

Major General Burton’s life of service extends beyond his time as adjutant general. He was an assistant professor at both Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University, where he taught military science.

He was awarded the Bronze Star for his exceptionally meritorious service as the commander of the 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which his unit played a significant role in the initial ground war. Under his leadership, his unit also helped to rebuild the country after its having been devastated by conflict.

Our great State of Utah owes Major General Burton a debt of gratitude for his decades of service. We wish the honorable general all the best in his next chapter.

Thank you, Major General Burton, for your service to our State and to our Nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last week, the House of Representatives voted in favor of a set of procedures to govern its impeachment inquiry, laying out a formal process to examine the facts in a deliberate and fairminded process.

Our Republican colleagues keep changing their arguments as to why there is no quid pro quo. The House is doing. First, there needed to be a vote. There was a vote. Second, make it public. Now it is public. Third, there is no quid pro quo. Now there is a quid pro quo, they even admit.

So now they are saying it is not impeachable. The shifting stands of the Republicans’ argument in the House and Senate, which seems to shift all the time, indicates they don’t seem to have a real interest in following the facts to where they lead but rather just deflecting them, regardless of the facts. That is a huge mistake for the Republic and for the Senate and how we should conduct ourselves.

So let me elaborate. For weeks, congressional Republicans criticized House Democrats for not scheduling a vote. As soon as the vote was taken, the same Republicans criticized the process once again.

Congressional Republicans criticized House Democrats for conducting classified hearings, even though the material discussed concerned our national security and Republicans readily participated in those hearings. Then once the House voted on the plan for open hearings, perhaps, finally, the same Republicans kept criticizing the process, coming up with a new argument: The idea that there was no “quid pro quo,” which the President himself stated, although he was contradicted by Mr. Mulvaney, and that seemed to be the linchpin of their defense of the President in the last few days and weeks.

But now, all of the sudden, knowing maybe what is coming out, all of the sudden, our Republican colleagues are saying yes there was a quid pro quo, but it doesn’t matter. It is not impeachable. Some of them even think it is not even wrong, which is absolutely absurd.

So instead of the shifting sands of defenses, the President on a near daily basis, my Republican friends should let all the facts come out and make their judgments based on the facts. Instead of changing their argument every third day when faced with new facts, they should remain disciplined and say we are going to look at the facts, instead of just jumping to find a new defense of the President no matter what the facts.

If you are defending the President because there is no quid pro quo and there is quid pro quo, maybe you should be saying: Maybe something is going on here. But, no, a new argument pops up.

The investigation is not yet complete. Jumping to conclusions before all the facts come out is misguided. It is unbecoming of a Senator’s role as judge and juror of a potential impeachment case.

Now, last night, the President held a political rally in Kentucky with several Republican elected officials, including the junior Senator from Kentucky who publicly and explicitly urged the media to expose the identity of the Federal whistleblower. The President himself, quickly praised the Senator’s idea.

I cannot stress just how wrong this is. We have Federal whistleblower laws designed to protect the identity and safety of patriotic Americans who choose to stand up for the Constitution. There are protections on the other side of the aisle, including senior Members and chairs of committees, who spent their entire careers defending whistleblowers and the laws that protect them and their families.

So where are they now? I was pleased to hear that my colleague, Senator THUNE, spoke out and said that whistleblowers must be protected. I believe
that Senator Grassley is saying the same. They are both right. But there should be bipartisan outrage at the public attempts by the President and a Member of this body to expose the identity of a Federal whistleblower. You do not get to determine what our whistleblower said or do not or whether you like what the whistleblower said or you do not. They are laws. This whistleblower, whose complaint was deemed “credible” and an “urgent matter” by a Trump-appointed committee, was quoted by these statements. Maybe it is not surprising with this President—it isn’t unfortunately; he goes back on his word day after day—but it is profoundly disappointing.

Where is the internal gyroscope, the clock of decency and honor on the other side? They are twisting themselves in contradictory pretzels to defend a President who is going to bounds that we have rarely seen in this body with any party with any President. I don’t understand what sort of effect President Trump has on people of integrity and a sense of degree of strength, who just fold whenever he says something, twist their arguments, change their arguments, do 180-degree hairpins about their arguments, all because they are afraid of telling the truth to power, the truth to this President who never likes to hear it.

**Gun Legislation**

Mr. President, on guns, on August 5, days after mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton, President Trump declared that “we cannot let those killed in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, die in vain.” He said, “Republicans and Democrats must come together and get strong background checks.”

Those were the words of President Trump. A few weeks later, Leader McConnell promised that a debate on background checks would be “front and center” in the Senate after the summer work period. These were Leader McConnell’s words. He said, “What we can’t do is fail to pass something.”

Well, it has been 3 months since those statements. Leader McConnell’s Senate has not only failed to pass them, it has not even debated some of them. And then on Friday, the Washington Post released a story that all but confirms the worst fear of families torn apart by guns violence—the headline of the Washington Post: “Trump abandons proposing ideas to curb gun violence, after saying he would, following shootings.”

According to the Washington Post, the President has abandoned his brief flirtation with supporting expanded background checks because his advisers believe it will hurt his chances of reelection, “a reversal from the summer when the President insisted he would offer policies to curb firearm deaths.”

Climate Change

Now, climate—yesterday, the Trump administration formally sent a notice to the UN that the United States will withdraw from the Paris Agreement in 2020. In the long list of dangerous policy decisions that President Trump has advanced over the years, this ranks as one of the very, very worst.

Future generations will look back on this decision as a dramatic step backward in the fight to address climate change. Future generations will note this date and how it hurt our planet, our economy, and our national security in the decades that followed.

President Trump has been an enemy of climate science in ways that no other President has been. Before becoming President, he called climate change a hoax, and unfortunately, his Presidency has treated it like one. He has stiffed his administration to the brim with lobbyists for Big Oil and Big Coal; he has crippled the Federal Government’s ability to research climate change. He rolled back emission standards and used fake science to under-report the effects of climate change.

Instead of protecting the interests of the people, President Trump has cast aside the overwhelming consensus of oil companies and corporate polluters. History will look harshly on President Trump’s failure to lead the United States through our planet’s climate crisis, and they will equally look on the American Senate and House—as they have just stood mute as he has done this.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Turkey and Syria

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the U.S. relationship with Turkey and certain actions that the U.S. must consider in order to protect our national security interests and those of our true allies in the region.

Today, more than ever, we need strong allies and partners in Europe. As the Trump administration does nearly everything in its power to erode our alliances and denigrate our closest friends, we find increasingly emboldened regimes in Russia and China. The U.S. cannot stand up to them alone. Throughout the Cold War, our diplomats worked assiduously to build strong bonds with allies, knowing that having close partners was better than having enemies on the world stage.

Our strongest allies should be those in NATO, those that have made a treaty commitment to mutual defense, those who share our values, those who work in concert with us to face the threat from countries like Russia and Iran with common cause. Unfortunately, Turkey under Erdogan embodies none of those things. Today, I would like to lay out a fact pattern that so many of my colleagues have come to see in recent weeks, that Turkey under Erdogan should not, Turkey under Erdogan cannot be seen as an ally.

How many more times do we need to see Turkey betray the values upon which NATO was established? How many more times do we need to see President Erdogan visit Moscow, Sochi, or any other Russian city to kiss Putin’s ring? How many more journalists need to be locked up by Erdogan before we stop calling Turkey a democracy?

Enough is enough. Over my 27 years in the House and the Senate, I have followed developments in the Eastern Mediterranean quite closely. Turkey’s
invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was a shocking attempt to redraw borders in Europe in the wake of World War II. To this day, Turkey’s invasion of northern Cyprus must be see for what it is: an illegal occupation that must end. Turkey’s actions over the last three decades were not the actions of a democratic country. They were not the actions of a reliable ally. They were not the actions of a responsible actor on the world stage.

The events of 1974 would only presage Turkey’s aggressive posture in the eastern Mediterranean in the years to come. To this day, Turkey under Erdogan continues to aggressively bully international energy companies, including U.S. companies, and the Republic of Cyprus. Their sin? Conducting completely legitimate exploration in the Cypriot Exclusive Economic Zone. This is not territory under dispute or an issue for debate. Turkey’s hostility towards these companies is the kind of gunboat diplomacy that belongs in the past and has no place in today’s world.

Examples abound where Turkey continues to operate in bad faith when it comes to Cyprus. It could abide by UN Security Council resolutions to transfer the UN’s 20,000-man operation from Varosha to the administration of the United Nations. These calls to return this area to its original inhabitants, whom Turkey ejected during the 1974 invasion, have gone unheeded. Instead, several Turkish Ministers have recently visited and threatened to move forward with commercial development—a true affront to those forced from their land more than 40 years ago, as well as to the U.N. Security Council resolution.

In the eastern Mediterranean, for years Turkey has also aggressively violated the airspace of neighboring Greece, also a NATO ally. These dangerous maneuvers have threatened the lives of U.S. military pilots, as well as civilians living on the islands below. Greece wants a good neighbor in Turkey and has sought to find common ground upon a constructive relationship. But with these airspace violations, Turkey has shown its true colors, and the international community must come to terms with this.

We have seen Turkey’s belligerence abroad manifest itself even here in the United States. Who can forget when President Erdogan’s bodyguards attacked U.S. citizens in a Washington park peacefully demonstrating, as is their constitutional right? And as momentum builds following the passage of the Armenian genocide resolution in the House of Representatives, Turkey and its lobbyists are working overtime to block it in the Senate because they know that if this resolution, which both I, Senator Cruz, and bipartisan Members on both sides have sponsored, were to come to the floor for a vote, it would finally and clearly declare a clarion message that recognizes the truth. The Armenian genocide happened, it was a monstrous act, and those who deny it are complicit in a terrible lie. Genocide is genocide. The Senate should not bow to this pressure. It cannot bow to this pressure. Let’s pass this resolution today.

Erdogan’s behavior abroad has roots inside the Turkey, where the democratic process has significantly eroded and religious freedom is under sustained pressure. In particular, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church—and its community—serves as the spiritual head of the world’s second largest Christian church. His church properties have been confiscated, and President Erdogan restricts his religious freedom. This is wrong, and his All Holi- ness deserves our attention and our on-going support. For those who speak about religious freedom in this Chamber—and I admire the many who have—as well as on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, this is also an issue of religious freedom.

Erdogan’s repression of his own citizens does not stop with restricting religious freedom. Following its emergency decree after a failed coup attempt, Turkish authorities engaged in a draconian crackdown and rounding up citizens across the country. The U.N. reports that close to 160,000 people were arrested in an 18-month period, including over 100 women who were pregnant or had just given birth, often on grounds of nothing more than that they were given dialog with their husbands, many of whom were suspects on trumped-up charges.

As we examine Turkey’s increasingly destructive role in the world, we must never turn a blind eye from those who speak about religious freedom in this Chamber—and I admire the many who have—as well as on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, this is also an issue of religious freedom.

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of refugees in that war-torn region. The consequences of these actions by Turkey and its proxies will persist for years to come.

Turkey’s incursion poses a direct threat to U.S. national security interests and not the least of which is by facilitating Russian foreign policy ambitions in the region and opening the door for ISIS to reconstitute.

At its inception, Turkey did not take the threat of ISIS seriously enough and in the early days, ISIS’s ability to easily traverse the Turkish-Syrian border bolstered its ability to grow in strength and numbers. Turkey did nothing—nothing—to stop them, did nothing to stop foreign fighters going into Syria. While Turkey has legitimate security concerns from the PKK, its singular focus on extending this feat to the whole Kurdish population risks its ability to effectively confront other terrorist organizations, including ISIS and al-Qaeda.

There must be a full accounting by Turkey of these atrocities. That is why I am today introducing an expedited resolution of request for the Secretary of State to inform the Senate in 30 days of the steps the United States has taken to address human rights abuses in Syria. This resolution calls for a description of the alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights in Turkey, its armed forces, and associated groups in Syria. It calls for a determination of whether Turkey’s actions have resulted in the release of ISIS or other extremists inside of Syria.

I am also working closely with the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Risch, on the Foreign Assistance Act to require the Secretary of State to assess and report to Congress on Turkey’s human rights abuses in Syria. This resolution invokes statutory authority under the Foreign Assistance Act to require the Secretary of State to assess and report to Congress on Turkey’s human rights abuses in Syria. This resolution calls for the administration to provide all available information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by Turkey, its armed forces, and associated groups in Syria. It calls for a description of the steps the United States has taken to promote Turkey’s respect of human rights in its Syria operations. The resolution also calls for a determination of whether Turkey’s actions have resulted in the release of ISIS or other extremists inside of Syria.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that 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, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessary absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURRI), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Sasse).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), 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 83, nays 9, as follows:

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk reads 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 bring to a close the 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.

Thomas 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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been Senator Risch, 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 83, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 343 Ex.]

YEAS—83

Alexander
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Bingham
Brist
Boozeman
Braun
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Cassidy
Collins
Cosmas
Lankford
Corbyn
Cortez Masto
Lee
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Enzi

Perdue
Peters
Portman
Reed
Roberts
Romney
Rosen
Rounds
Rubio
Scott (FL)
Scott (RC)
Shelby
Sherrod
Sinema
Smith
Saxton
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Tunney
Udall
Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Young

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the
Unlike other proposals, the Senate Committee on Finance’s policy does not tie the launch price to an artificially low price. The bill doesn’t stop a drug company from recouping its research and development costs, which will lead to higher drug prices. What the Part D inflationary rebate does is really quite simple. After launching, if a drug manufacturer chooses to raise the price above the rate set by the Department of Health and Human Services, it has to return the difference for the drugs paid by Medicare. This policy limits government subsidies in order to provide predictability for the Medicare Program. At the same time, it provides protection for the American taxpayer. That is simply all it does. Any subsidies that the pharmaceutical companies would have received from an exorbitant raise in price is then returned to Americans rather than to line pharma’s pockets. It has praised the bill for its significant cost savings for the taxpayers. Does anyone really think a liberal will stand up and endorse the price controls? In its analysis of the bill, CATO wrote that this bill “would not impose price controls” and “would reduce wasteful Medicare spending.” CATO also acknowledged that these “commonsense tweaks to a bloated entitlement program are encountering strong opposition . . . mostly from those who would not make quite as much money off the taxpayers.” We all know that Medicare’s finances are in a bind, but the Part D bill is not quite all that. It has to be that way all over the country.

Finally, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, within the CMS, is required by statute to enforce financial controls on top-branding. The Center can only test different ways to pay for services in Medicare and Medicaid if they are expected to lower costs while they maintain quality. So this idea of using taxpayer dollars responsibly and in a targeted manner exists in many facets of the American healthcare system.

My point is, while some call the inflationary rebate in Part D a price control, I urge all of the Members to consider the prescription drug pricing reduction Act of 2019 is a win for Americans across the board. Seniors will pay less out of pocket; taxpayers will know their money is being used appropriately; and drug manufacturers will continue to be able to innovate.

That is why Ranking Member Wyden and I strove to achieve these things in the very beginning. I urge my colleagues to keep these considerations in mind, and hopefully my colleagues will support this legislation as a way of answering the concerns that constituents express in almost every State. At least in the 99 county meetings that I hold every year, nothing about the pricing of prescription drugs comes up. It has to be that way all over the country.
from Congress, to impose tariffs in the name of national security.

For 11 months now, I have been working with other Finance Committee members on both sides of the aisle to establish a separation of powers and checks and balances in the section 232 process. These two basic principles of our system of government are sorely lacking in section 232 as it stands today.

Two of my colleagues on the Finance Committee—TORNY and PORTMAN, each filed reform bills that are well thought out, and both happen to be bipartisan. A full quarter of the Senate has cosponsored one or more of their bills, including 10 Democrats, 14 Republicans, and I, Independent.

Many other Senators have told me that they, too, want to see section 232 reforms reported out of the Finance Committee.

With a strong bipartisan mandate like that, I have been optimistic that Ranking Member Wyden and Ranking Member Toomey and PORTMAN, each filed reform bills that are well thought out, and both happen to be bipartisan. A full quarter of the Senate has cosponsored one or more of their bills, including 10 Democrats, 14 Republicans, and I, Independent.

Secondly, I have been clear that I am generally not a fan of tariffs, but I also want to note clearly that I have agreed to Senator Wyden’s request to introduce a chairman and ranking member’s mark that does not unwind section 232 measures on steel and aluminum. Many problems with those tariffs and quotas have been well documented, but I have been in the Senate long enough to know that getting things done requires compromise.

Third, second to all of my colleagues and everyone listening, I don’t view section 232 reforms as weakening the power of the Chief Executive. I view them as enhancing the effectiveness of the Chief Executive in our country. As the Supreme Court told President Truman, the Office of President and the President himself are strongest when Congress is behind him.

We need reforms to section 232 that will make clearer where Congress stands on national security and trade. Such reforms would also make clearer to our trading partners that when section 232 is used, Congress stands with the President.

Now, with these points cleared up, I hope that Ranking Member Wyden, Ranking Member Toomey, and our colleagues will be ready to reform section 232.

We have a strong, bipartisan mandate to get to work, and this is likely just the beginning of a great deal of work that needs to be done to review our trade laws.

Senator Wyden and I have reported bipartisan bills out of the committee successfully in the past, and hopefully we can do it again for section 232.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Blackburn). The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

HEALTHCARE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss an issue that is important in my State and I think it is important in our State.

Illinois, which I represent and am proud to represent, is a State with the great American city of Chicago but with many other towns and cities of a variety of different sizes.

I actually was born in downstate Illinois, 300 miles away from Chicago. Between the great city of Chicago and the rest of our State, there are many small towns and rural areas. When you go into these areas and talk about the quality of life and living in a small town or rural America, there are a lot of challenges.

Just a few weeks ago I was in Calhoun County, one of the smallest in our State. We had an assembly of kids in middle school and grade school, and we announced that the local electric cooperative, the Illinois Electric Cooperative, was finally going to bring that level of access to the internet for which Calhoun County—the people who live there and their students—have been waiting for a decade or longer. It took longer for it to reach them.

I am glad the electric cooperative led the fight. Historically, the electric cooperatives literally brought electricity to rural America. Now they are bringing high-speed internet to rural America, and it is critically important for students to learn, along with all of the other services that many people living in big cities take for granted come with the internet.

That is one example, but another one you run into all the time is the comments of people in smalltown America about access to healthcare. You see, across our State we have millions of people who live in small towns, rural towns, who don’t have the same quality healthcare nearby, whether it is a hospital or a doctor or even a dentist. Across Illinois, 5 million people live in areas with shortages, and 2 million live in areas without a dentist. Almost all of them live in an area without access to mental health providers—counselors, psychologists.

The consequences speak for themselves. Only 1 in 10 people with substance disorders get the care that need in these areas, and 43 percent of rural Americans do not have access to dentists—43 percent.

Well, there is a Federal program that has been addressing it for a long time, and incidentally the Federal Officer from Tennessee is the cosponsor of legislation I am going to address at this moment.

Today there is a Federal program in place called National Health Service Corps. It provides loan forgiveness to entice doctors and other healthcare professionals to serve in places with healthcare needs. In total, 10,000 doctors, dentists, behavioral health specialists, and nurses use the National Health Service Corps, and treat 11 million Americans each year in hospitals and community clinics.

We entice them to come to these underserved areas by paying off their loans. As you probably know, doctors, dentists and nurses and others end up graduating with a lot of student loans.

Illinois has more than 550 of these National Health Service Corps clinicians, but fewer than 75 of them serve in rural areas. As we face an opiodic epidemic that touches every corner of America—no city too large, no town too small, no suburb too wealthy to have escaped it—we need that kind of professional healthcare across the board, especially as it relates to rural communities.

That is why I have worked up with the Presiding Officer, Senator Blackburn of Tennessee, on a bipartisan piece of legislation that we call the Rural America Health Corps Act.

Our bill will expand the current Corps program to provide loan forgiveness for providers who will serve in rural areas in Tennessee, in Illinois, and across the Nation. It provides funding for 5 years rather than the usual 2 to ensure that doctors, dentists, and nurses plant their roots in rural America.

With the National Health Corps up for reauthorization this year, Senator
November 5, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S6377

BLUMENTHAL and I are pleading with our friends, Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee and Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY of Washington, to promote this rural focus.

It isn’t the only thing I have looked at when it comes to rural America. I recently introduced a bill with Senator ROBERTS of Kansas. Senator ROBERTS is chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, and he agreed to include in the farm bill something called the SIREN Act. The provision provides funding to support rural fire and EMS agencies with training and recruiting staff and purchasing equipment—everything from naloxone to power stretchers.

I recently visited Nauvoo, IL. Students of history may recognize the name of this town, but Nauvoo, IL, is where a man by the name of Mr. Kennedy came forward and told me about the need for new, modern equipment on their ambulances in this rural Hancock County area.

Because of what he told me, I introduced the bill. It passed as part of the farm bill, and we are going to start making money available in rural parts of America for these emergency management resources to have the right training and the right equipment to respond when needed.

These bipartisan bills are important for rural healthcare, but we also have to maintain the structure of our key healthcare programs.

Thanks to Illinois, Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act, which has provided a funding lifeline to keep many of our rural hospitals from the brink of closure. It also expanded health insurance to 1 million people in Illinois.

Ten years ago, when we passed ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act, too many Americans did not have health insurance.

If you have ever been in a moment in your life when you were the father of a sick child who desperately needed medical care and you had no health insurance, you will never forget it as long as you live. I know. I have been there. It made an impression on me as a young father that I have never forgotten.

So when this bill, the Affordable Care Act, passed and I saw so many Americans finally getting health insurance, I knew it was giving them peace of mind and peace of mind is not something you can go back to.

This week marks the beginning of the open enrollment period to sign up for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act, which ends on December 15. It is vital to make sure that everyone signs up at “healthcare.gov” if you are not currently covered and you want to know what is available to you. Most patients will find the premiums are less than $100 a month, and if you are in certain income categories you will get a lot of help in making the premium payment.

But the No. 1 thing that I hear from constituents—and it has nothing to do with what I just mentioned, I listened to my friend from Iowa, Republican Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, on the floor a few minutes ago talking about an issue that each of us runs into in every State in the Union. Here is the question: If you ask the American people what is the one issue you are concerned about from an economic viewpoint that you think the Congress can do something about, 90 percent of Democrats, 90 percent of Republicans, 90 percent of Independents all come back and say, ‘Do you have a prescription drug problem?’ Do you know what it is? The cost of prescription drugs. People understand that these prescription drugs are so expensive, they are beyond the reach of many people who desperately need them.

Now, there was a Senator from Wisconsin years back named William Proxmire. He used to issue monthly recognitions of the most flagrant, excessive examples of waste in the Federal Government. He called it the “Golden Fleece.” Earlier this year, I launched a series of awards to carry on Senator Proxmire’s work, with the focus on the pharmaceutical industry, the people who make the drugs.

This month, the Pharma Fleece award is going to the drug industry’s trade group, PhRMA, and the Trump administration, I am afraid, for a giveaway in the new NAFTA trade bill. What does a trade bill have to do with PhRMA or the price of prescription drugs? It turns out that PhRMA—boy, they are good—managed to slip in a provision in this trade bill that most Members of Congress are not even aware of.

This new trade agreement, as you might expect, involving Canada, Mexico, and the United States, covers a wide range of issues. My farmers are very excited about it. The men and women in labor unions are concerned about it. But it falls far short when it comes to labor and environmental protections. There is a lot of work that needs to be done.

But the one provision that I want to highlight today is tucked inside this sprawling document. It is a provision that guarantees monopoly protection for pharmaceutical companies by blocking competition, generic drug competition. It means that these companies can continue to call for skyrocketing prescription drug costs tied to no price cap.

This is just one example of an issue that the President said during his campaign was a high priority and we all talk about on the floor of the Senate that is being sneaked into this new NAFTA trade bill. Let’s remember, the top four drug companies avoided paying $7 billion in taxes last year—$7 billion—and were able to buy back another $30 billion in stock thanks to President Trump’s tax reform package. It was very kind to PhRMA, not that they needed it.

Americans already pay, incidentally, the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, four times what is paid in Canada or Europe. So why would the administration agree to put a provision in PhRMA to guarantee high prices into the new NAFTA trade bill?

Listen to the story. In 2017, for example, Canadians can purchase a year’s supply of Humira, made by AbbVie, a company in Illinois—it is used for a disease called psoriatic arthritis. Canadians can buy a year’s supply for $4,000, or less than 10 percent of the cost in the United States. It is the most heavily advertised prescription drug on television, Humira, made by AbbVie, a company in Illinois—it is used for a disease called psoriatic arthritis. Canadians can buy a year’s supply for $4,000, more than twice as much as the Canadians.

Why? The Canadian Government cares. They said to AbbVie and to Pharma: We are not going to let you overcharge Canadians. We are going to protect our Canadian families and our Canadian healthcare system. The United States doesn’t. Often, Big Pharma charges as much as it can get away with by manipulating our patent and exclusivity rules to avoid competition.

Drugs known as biologics, like Humira, Rituxan, and Remicade, are medications made from living organisms. They are known as biologics. They make up 2 percent of all the prescriptions sold, but they count for 37 percent of the cost of prescription drugs—very expensive drugs.

These biologics have all been on the market for more than 17 years, and yet they are still the top seven highest grossing drugs in America due to the fortress of monopoly protections that Pharma has created.

Now, listen closely. Under U.S. law, biologics like the ones I mentioned—Humira is one of them—are given a 12-year exclusivity period once the FDA approves their application. What does that mean? No one can compete with them. They own the market. They set the price.

That means that a cheaper competitor cannot be approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States for more than 10 years, while the brand-name company is free to charge whatever it wants. Wonder why prices are high? There is no competition.

I believe the standard is too high and have cosponsored legislation to reduce the exclusivity period to 7 years. Canada’s exclusivity period is 8 years. Mexico does not have one.

But now let’s go to the new NAFTA trade agreement and look closely at the fine print that PhRMA included in that. The administration wants to enshrine our Pharma-friendly laws by setting a 10-year exclusivity floor for all three countries. It is a virtual guarantee that PhRMA, when it comes to biologics, will be able to charge whatever they wish for 10 years or more in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Why is that in the trade agreement? If all of us agree that prescription drug prices are too high, why are we putting
in the NAFTA trade agreement a sweetheart deal for PhRMA so that they can charge higher prices, not just in the United States, but in Canada and Mexico?

This new NAFTA has provisions that will encourage our companies to obtain excessive numbers of secondary patents that delay generic competition and keep prices high.

So when my farmers come to me and say: Why are you not for NAFTA? And I say: Yes, it was just about farmers, it would be one thing. But it is about American families, Canadian families, families even in Mexico paying higher prices for prescription drugs because of the trade agreement that the President wants us to approve. We should be working to bring lower-cost products to market sooner, not allowing Pharma to sneak in a payday into a trade package at the expense of American families.

It should come as no surprise that the campaign spending running ads supporting the approval of NAFTA is the pharmaceutical industry of the United States. In fact, PhRMA and BIO, the two largest pharmaceutical associations, have already spent $360 million lobbying Congress to pass this new NAFTA. Now, we know why.

For all the President’s talk, this provision in this trade agreement is a Trojan horse giveaway for Big Pharma at the expense of American patients. I guess we should not be surprised, but I will say this: If Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, are listening to the people they represent back home about the cost of prescription drugs, they will not fall for this new Pharma fleece.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will call the roll.

Mr. JONES. Madam President, it is not often in floor remarks we can often hit a trifecta on topics that are uniquely connected, but I am fortunate enough to have that privilege today. They all center around the glorious peanut, I want to honor the National Peanut Festival currently being held in Dothan, AL, which recognizes the importance of the peanut industry to the State of Alabama and to the United States.

Every year, Dothan hosts the nation’s largest peanut festival to honor local peanut farmers and to celebrate harvest season. The festival began in 1938 and 1939 has been held annually each year, except for the year during the hiatus during World War II. This year’s festival is a 10-day-long extravaganza with entertainment. You name it, you can find it in Dothan during the peanut festival. It is one of the most popular events in Alabama each year. In 2017, the festival broke attendance records with over 200,000 people joining the fun.

Unfortunately, my schedule has prevented me from being down there this week, but I wish I had been there. I wish I could have said this because it is a glorious time.

Last week, I introduced a resolution here in the Senate to pay tribute to the National Peanut Festival and the importance of our State and the entire country. Over 400 million pounds of peanuts are produced every year in Alabama alone, and nearly half of all the peanuts in America are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, AL. The shelf-life of these peanuts is processed. It is no wonder that the city of Dothan—down in southeast Alabama, right in the corner, just right on the border of Georgia and Florida—is known as the Peanut Capital of the World.

The peanut industry is a critical part of Alabama’s economy. In 2018 alone, the 400 million pounds of peanuts produced by Alabama farmers was valued at $118 million. The farm value of the entire peanut crop is over $1 billion dollars. And like all farmers, peanut farmers have their share of challenges.

But year after year, the peanut farmers in Alabama and across the country persevere, providing a crop whose importance is often simply taken for granted—well, as peanuts, as it pertains to our overall economy.

But the peanut is an important staple to the agriculture and food industry, thanks in large part to the amazing and extraordinary work of a scientist, an African-American scientist and adopted son of Alabama, Dr. George Washington Carver, who did his work at one of Alabama’s great HBCUs, Tuskegee University.

Dr. Carver was born into slavery, but raised by his former master once slavery was abolished. He was forced to attend segregated schools until 1891, when he was accepted as the first Black student at Tennessee State University. Only 5 years later, in 1896, Dr. Carver was hired by the great Booker T. Washington to head the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University, in Tuskegee, AL.

At that point, peanuts were not even recognized as a crop in the United States, but because of a serious threat to the South’s cotton crop from boll weevils, Dr. Carver suggested that Alabama farmers start growing peanuts in the alternate years, which he believed would restore and add nutrients to the barren soil so that cotton could grow the next year. It worked. Peanut cultivation was a leading voice for crop rotation but ended up inventing over 300 products made out of peanuts, including peanut milk, peanut paper, and peanut soap—although, surprisingly, he did not invent my favorite peanut butter, but 300 different types of products made from peanuts.

In 1921, in a highly unusual circumstance in the era of Jim Crow, Dr. Carver testified regarding the value of peanuts before the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives—an African-American scientist in front of the U.S. House in 1921. In 1938, again during the Jim Crow era in Alabama, Dr. Carver was the featured speaker at the first peanut festival in Dothan, AL.

Peanuts became more and more popular, and by 1940, they had become one of the top six crops in the United States. We’ll call in large part due to the work of Dr. Carver from his University. It is not an overstatement to say that Dr. Carver, Tuskegee University, and the peanut helped save the economy of the South.

This is just one example of the extraordinary contributions that HBCUs have made to our country over the years and continue to make today. But, as we have talked about for some time, including with my friend Senator CARDIN earlier today, those contributions are threatened by the expiration of Federal funding that occurred at the end of September.

I have been pushing for the passage of my bill, the FUTURE Act, which would renew funding for HBCUs and minority-serving institutions that expired at the end of September. We need to continue to invest in these institutions and ensure they have consistent funding.

We have worked with this bill, the FUTURE Act, to make sure the concerns of others—particularly those who might object to the UC we have asked for on the FUTURE Act—to make sure that this is not some Federal budget gimmick. We have answered those concerns. We have answered all the pay-for-concerns. All we are asking for is consistent funding because now planning is as important as the money. Yes, the Department of Education has told HBCUs that the funding would be there through September—by this spring, those institutions have to plan. They have to start making sure they have the necessary resources for the fall and beyond. If their funding is set to expire at the end of next year, they cannot make those plans, both with teachers and their infrastructure.

We need to continue to make sure those HBCUs are funded consistently and appropriately. Let’s make sure we put aside any differences and make sure those funds are available so that our great HBCUs and minority-serving institutions across the country can continue to operate and plan.

We need to honor the legacy of Dr. Carver, which is one of the reasons I was so proud to introduce a resolution honoring the National Peanut Festival and the peanut industry in the State of Alabama. It is a testament to the importance of the peanut and a time to celebrate its history, our State, and the peanut farming way of life.

I am hopeful that with the advancements of peanut allergy research, we can make sure more people have the ability to enjoy what so many of us
can. I understand that peanut allergies are a real problem around the country and around the world for a lot of people. But advances in research that is going on right now—right now—can make sure we break through and that all who want to can enjoy the value and the taste of these wonderful peanuts. I am not going to go through specifics. I could name all manner of products, I won't do that here today, but I thank you for this opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

ENERGY POVERTY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss the global fight to end poverty and specifically the problem of energy poverty.

The numbers paint a very grim picture. Worldwide, 800 million people are living without electricity. They can't cook or heat their homes safely or reliably. In fact, nearly 3 billion people—3 billion people—still burn wood and waste for household energy. What should the United States do to help? First and foremost, I believe we should push multilateral development banks, like the World Bank, to invest in affordable energy projects that will help these people. The World Bank's mission is to lift people out of poverty—to help lift people out of poverty. That is their mission. Specifically, it seeks to end extreme poverty while promoting shared prosperity.

For 75 years, the United States has been working with the World Bank to help developing countries grow. The United States remains the World Bank's largest contributor. Every U.S. dollar at the World Bank should make sure we break through and that people in the developing world benefit.

The World Bank's new policies, however, lead me to call for a review by the United States of how U.S. dollars are being used. Several years ago, the World Bank decided to stop financing certain projects—specifically, oil, gas, and coal projects. I am concerned the World Bank is now blocking affordable energy development—energy that is needed to make a positive difference for so many people in the developing world. Traditional fuels are a vital tool for escaping energy poverty. Yet, with the policy change in the World Bank, only renewable energy projects qualify for funding. It seems that the World Bank is pushing its liberal political agenda ahead of our anti-poverty mission.

The question is, Does the World Bank still want to help the people living in poor nations today? That is the question. If so, they should be helping with the use of abundant and affordable energy resources. If not, then I think the United States must reevaluate our support for the World Bank.

Here is a case in point: The Bank reversed the financing of high-efficiency power stations fueled by coal. Last fall, for example, the World Bank failed to honor its commitment to the country of Kosovo. The Bank pulled its funding from Kosovo's state-of-the-art, coal-fired powerplant—state of the art—needed in Kosovo. Kosovo faces an energy security barrier to grow. They don't have enough energy to grow the way they are prepared to. Kosovo has the third-largest power capacity in the world. Kosovo desperately needs to retire its older facility.

I saw this firsthand last month when I was visiting members of the Wyoming National Guard stationed in northern Kosovo. Kosovo has desperately needed to make a positive difference on the planet living without electricity. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, about a month ago there was a headline in one of the publications that people pay attention to that read: "Senate Republicans Amp Up Pressure for an USMCA Vote." USMCA, by the way, is an acronym for the new trade agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the United States. I initially thought it was "United States Marine Corps Always," but that is not the case. About nine of us came to the floor and pointed out this was imperative, and if we were going to have a new trade agreement to replace NAFTA, if we could at least get some progress and also make some progress with regard to Canada and Mexico—historically great trading partners—it might be a good thing to get the USMCA passed. That was a month ago.

We were assured, at that particular time, by folks over in the House of Representatives—our colleagues over there—that they would do everything in their power to see if we could get it done. It is not done. Still, it is not done. Still, farmers, ranchers, growers, and everybody connected with agriculture, and, for that matter, trade, certainly have been waiting and waiting. Times in farm country, as I think most people know, are pretty tough these days. So at least passing USMCA would be something everybody could agree to.

I rise in support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement again—1 month later. It is time to move forward and pass this important legislation now. "Now," that is my acronym for "right away," "yesterday." As chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I want to talk about not only my producers in Kansas but all producers throughout these United States and across the country. Time and again, we have asked why there is a delay. Farmers tell me, time and again, they wonder what on Earth is going on back there. Well, that is obvious to everybody, with the "I" word being considered over in the House, but even with that, this is a situation where, if that were brought up to a vote, both the administration and House Members—both sides of the aisle—it would pass, more so especially since our Trade Ambassador, Robert Lighthizer, has been working with our colleagues across the aisle over there in an effort to settle labor issues and also environmental concerns.
I have been down that road before with the Honorable Kika de la Garza, the late Kika de la Garza, but a wonderful man who was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. I was the ranking member and then became the chairmanship of Ambassador Lighthizer, writing that bill. We would Revert to that bill, but after months and months, there was finally an agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States. We were ready to do this, and it had to go to the House of Representatives. Ambassador Lighthizer and Bob—he used to work for Bob Dole, a good friend of mine—had been working with Democrats over time on these two issues. He tells me he is pretty close to a deal—except we are not. Now, Ambassador Lighthizer, on behalf of the administration, is not going to send this deal, if you will, this trade agreement, to the House unless there is a clear intention that it will be brought up. He doesn’t want to be held hostage. So the House has to move to send it to the Senate. We don’t have to have anything with President Trump there until needed.

That used to be the case with Mexico. The corn in Kansas, once harvested, would get on the Kansas City railroad, down to Mexico. They would sell the wheat to Mexico, where they sorely needed it. It was a very good business trade agreement. That has pretty much dried up.

Let me go back to 2017. At that particular time, 110,000 Kansas jobs were supported by trade with Canada and Mexico, and, I am sure, the neighboring States are even equal to that or much more than that.

While many of those jobs are spread across all sectors of the economy, many are tied to the agriculture value chain; that is, farmers, ranchers, and growers, to the consumer.

In total, Kansas exports $4 billion of products to Canada and Mexico each year—$800 million from agriculture alone. It is nearly impossible for me to overstate the importance of this trade deal to my home State of Kansas. We are not just in the agriculture revenue, but in the value chain. Because of the supply-demand situation worldwide, and we are in a lot of trouble in farm country. We are the one that we know the votes to pass it in both Chambers, both in the House and the Senate.

In fact, the call for Congress to get moving on this trade deal has united more people from different political and professional backgrounds than almost any other issue in recent memory. I co-chaired organized labor recently started a webinar series, if you will, “Trade Tuesday,” to give a platform to the many constituents who have voiced their support to me by saying: “Pat, what on Earth is the USMCA bill?” We have featured farmers and manufacturers from around Kansas, including Rich Felts. Rich Felts is a great friend of mine, a farmer from Southeast Kansas, and President of the Kansas Farm Bureau. Rich hit the nail right on the head. He said:

We are an exporting State. We produce much more than we are ever going to consume. We have to grow our economy, specifically our economy in the State, we have to export the excess commodity. I think it is easy to say we want trade, what do you want to trade, and this is going to be a step in that direction if we can get this passed by Congress.

I could not agree more with Rich on the importance of this trade deal to farmers and producers in Kansas, but it is not only the agriculture industry that is interested in getting USMCA across the finish line. We have also featured Jason Cox, the president of Cox Machine, Inc., a small aerospace company based in Wichita, KS—typical of the small business community of my State. He recently said:

Trade is very important to our business, both on the raw material supply side as well as the selling side. This USMCA is important for us to be able to continue to sell our wheat, corn, et cetera—but it will also address longstanding non-tariff barriers that will help our Kansas farmers export wheat to Canada.

That used to be the case with Mexico. The Kansas winter wheat, once harvested, would get on the Kansas City railroad, down to Mexico. They would sell the wheat to Mexico, where they sorely needed it. It was a very good business trade agreement. That has pretty much dried up.

While many of those jobs are spread across all sectors of the economy, many are tied to the agriculture value chain; that is, farmers, ranchers, and growers, to the consumer.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I come again to speak about what I think is the inequities and unfairness in the system that we have to American workers.

American workers, businesses, and the economy here in the United States—I am not trying to lecture her or point fingers at her, but she knows exactly what the situation is. If she would just send a signal to Ambassador Lighthizer and we would send that trade pack up and we could get a vote, I think it will pass overwhelmingly in both Houses and at least in the Senate we have something we could claim we are doing in behalf of our farmers, our ranchers, our growers, and everybody who is supported by the agriculture industry.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

PENSIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I come again to speak about what I think is the inequities and unfairness in the system that we have to American workers.

American workers, businesses, and the economy here in the United States—I am not trying to lecture her or point fingers at her, but she knows exactly what the situation is. If she would just send a signal to Ambassador Lighthizer and we would send that trade pack up and we could get a vote, I think it will pass overwhelmingly in both Houses and at least in the Senate we have something we could claim we are doing in behalf of our farmers, our ranchers, our growers, and everybody who is supported by the agriculture industry.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.
assets, therefore putting profits before the people.

Through no fault of the workers in America, companies are able to use their pension money for whatever they want when they declare bankruptcy. Just think about that. All your life, you have been working—20, 30 years or more—and you thought it was always secure. All of a sudden, through the bankruptcy laws, they are able to take your money and use it for whatever they want to now because they declare bankruptcy and went through a procedure.

Under current law, when companies declare bankruptcy, they have the ability to use their workers' pension fund to give their executives bonuses and pay legal costs and debt. I am going to repeat that one. They have the ability to use the workers' pension—your money, workers' money—to give bonuses to the executives, who should be held responsible for the company doing as poorly as it has done to go into bankruptcy, and pay legal costs and debt out of money you put in there for 20 years or more.

For the last few decades, investment firms have manipulated chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code to destroy union contracts, reduce health benefits, and skirt pension obligations to maximize profits. Under current law, investment firms can target companies through chapter 11 bankruptcy, sell off all the company's valuable assets, and leave the pension plan in a worthless corporate shell, while paying handsome bonuses to their executives.

While Congress has sat back and allowed the exploitation that occurs through bankruptcy, millions of workers and retirees have lost their retire- ment security. Workers and retirees did not set the amount each company contributes to their pension plans, the terms of the plans, or the loopholes in the bankruptcy laws. Those decisions were all done right here in the Halls of Congress. As such, it is now the responsibility and duty of Congress to stop the financial engineering and close the loopholes of our Bankruptcy Code.

Let me just talk about one company that affects my State vastly. Last week, the largest private coal company in the United States, Murray Energy, filed for bankruptcy, making it the eighth coal company in the past 12 months to do so. Like so many other companies, they plan to skirt their pension obligations and use coal miners’ money to pay off their debts, give their executives bonuses, and pay off legal fees. In the bankruptcy filing, they even labeled coal miners as liabilities. I don’t know about you, but I don’t know how any company in good conscience could ever label their employ- ees as liabilities. They are the ones who make the company, but now they are liabilities. That is why they had to go into bankruptcy.

Murray Energy has contributed 97 percent of the money going into the UMWA pension fund annually. With Murray’s bankruptcy filing, the UMWA pension fund will become insolvent even faster. Once the UMWA pension fund becomes insolvent, this crisis will snowball and impact every other multi-employer pension fund in America.

I am going to use a couple of cases here to put it in perspective. I think everybody will be able to follow this much easier. I am going to talk about Sears and Roebuck, which we all knew growing up. My mother used to work there, and we used to do most of our shopping there.

This information that I am giving you and I am going to explain comes from a complaint filed by Sears itself in the Southern District of New York in January 2019. This is the old Sears filing against the new Sears—the take-over Sears. This type of financial engineering and exploitation occurred at Sears over the past several years.

After merging with Kmart and being taken over by ESL Investments, Sears started to buy back its own shares instead of investing in its already run-down stores. Lampert also transferred 235 parcels of Sears’ most valuable real estate to a company he controlled, led by Lampert himself and then leased the properties back to Sears.

In 2017, Sears paid the investment trust owned by Mr. Lampert $117 million in rent for the use of its former properties. ESL Investments held 235 parcels of Sears’ most valuable real estate. Lampert himself took out $193 a share in 2007 to less than $1. I repeat—$193 a share in 2007 to less than $1 a share.

After filing bankruptcy in 2018, Sears no longer possessed enough assets to pay off its creditors—especially its pension obligation. Now those pensions are in the hands of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which is Sears’ largest creditor. The PBGC now owes the PBGC more than $1.5 billion.

Recently, Sears Holdings Corporation filed a lawsuit against former CEO Lampert, alleging that he transferred more than $2 billion of cash and real estate to himself and other shareholders in the years leading up to the retailer’s bankruptcy. That has all been done under what they consider legal.

I am going to tell you about one more. This is Friendly’s. Friendly’s is an ice cream corporation, and this information comes from the PBGC’s complaint opposing Friendly’s pension plan for restructuring. I am telling you, this comes from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which we run in this country. Lampert, who is called the Federal Government—and they put this complaint against their restructuring.

The same scheme played out with them in early 2000. In 2007, Sun Capital Partners, Inc., a private equity fund, purchased Friendly’s for $337 million. Trying to weather the great recession, Sun forced Friendly’s to close 63 stores and take a loan from one of the firm’s affiliate entities. At that point, Sun Capital was both the owner and major creditor of Friendly’s. That relationship gave the firm leverage in its bankruptcy to quickly sell much of Friendly’s assets free and clear of any pension obligations to Sun Capital’s affiliate. At the end of the bankruptcy, most of Friendly’s assets were owned by Sun Capital affiliate free and clear of any pension plans. Those unfunded pension obligations totaled $115 million and are being held by you and I, the taxpayers, through the PBGC. There is nothing fair about any of this that I just explained, no matter how large or how small.

We are talking about righting a wrong that we have allowed to happen. Back in the 1980s, when the bankruptcy laws were changed, I don’t think there was a Member here who intended for these type of shenanigans—this type of robbery and thievery to go on in America. It has happened too long, and we have a chance to change it.

As the bankruptcy laws continue to allow this type of exploitation to remain, there is a low-profile government agency that is working to reform our bankruptcy laws. That is the Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which insures 44 million American workers and retirees. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation collects insurance premiums from companies that offer pensions and provides a portion of the lost benefit to protect pensioners in need. If the exploitation continues and the PBGC is left holding the check for bankrupt companies, taxpayers will, for the first time in history—we taxpayers will, for the first time in history—be on the hook for pensions that were evasively disregarded in exchange for investment company profit—or robbery, actually.

If the PBGC becomes insolvent, taxpayers will be on the hook for $476 billion over the next 30 years, if we allow this to continue.

That is why I have introduced legislation that will reform our bankruptcy laws—this is called the Stop Looting American Pensions Act. That is exactly what we have allowed to happen for so long. It would ensure companies can no longer exploit loopholes in the Bankruptcy Code to skirt their pension obligations to workers and retirees. My bill would change bankruptcy laws to increase the priority of workers going into bankruptcy.
proceedings so the workers are the first priority, not the executive bonuses and legal fees.

What we are doing for the first time is making sure the wage earner, the worker, is in the front of the line, not the back of the line. Right now if a bankruptcy occurs, I guarantee, all of the different reorganization groups that come in, all the different financial groups will be in the front of the line, and the workers are left with nothing. This reverses that procedure.

It is my hope when American workers across the country pour decades of their life into a company and are denied their pensions due to corporate greed, I keep hearing CEOs talk about corporate responsibility. Well, I am so thankful to hear those words, “corporate responsibility.” This is a step toward putting those words into action. I would like to see the responsible corporate heads of American industry step forward and help us with this needed change. We have to put our workers at the front of the line, and I would like to see that done sooner than later.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JEFFERSON S. BURTON

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I rise to honor Utah’s valiant citizen, MG Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, and to pay tribute to him for his many years of devoted service to our Nation and to the great State of Utah.

As General Burton closes a long chapter of 37 years of military service, he leaves behind a tremendous legacy as an American patriot and as a true servant-leader. So I would like to take a moment to talk about General Burton today.

From a young age, General Burton knew that he wanted to follow in the footsteps of a number of his family members by serving both his faith and his country. He served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on a Canadian Indian reservation, braving harsh conditions that would well prepare him for his future of military service.

As soon as he returned home, he enrolled at Brigham Young University, where he enlisted in the National Guard as an artillery field soldier. He joined BYU’s ROTC Program, receiving a commission as second lieutenant in 1984.

He completed tours with the U.S. Army Military Police Corps in Alabama with the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO; and with the 7th U.S. Corps in Germany, where he witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In 1991, General Burton left the Army and returned home to join the Utah National Guard where he served in a variety of distinguished leadership positions over the next decade. Chief among them was a position that involved commanding the 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of the initial ground war in that conflict.

He and his troops were tasked with searching for and eliminating explosive devices, improving Embassy security, and improving the necessary to strengthen security in and around the U.S. Embassy, and of course responding to bombings and other acts of terror. They were often the first ones on the scene of an explosion. In honor of his heroic service there, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

General Burton was appointed assistant adjutant general of the Utah National Guard in 2008, promoted to brigadier general just a few months later, and then made major general and adjutant general in 2012. In this role, General Burton has trained and equipped over 7,000 soldiers under his command and helped them to prepare to respond to challenges in both military life and in their communities. Under his leadership, they have performed at an absolutely remarkable and, indeed, exceptional caliber.

When the 100,000-soldier surge in Afghanistan ended in 2012, General Burton was also responsible for overseeing the needs of the soldiers returning home from war. He rose to the challenge, tending to both the physical and emotional needs of those warriors and their families with the utmost care. As he himself has once said, “May we make a silent promise to keep the faith with our battle buddies and wingmen. . . . May we be strong for one another, and unashamedly rush to the aid of those in need. May we remember those who have suffered grievous physical wounds in the defense of liberty, and may we never forget those who have given the ultimate sacrifice within our formations so that we might live in freedom.”

General Burton has lived by these words over his long and dedicated career. Every day he keeps a note tucked in the band of his hat. That note contains the list of the soldiers who were killed in Iraq and how they met their end under his command. He has led by example, never asking of his soldiers something that he himself has not done. He has led in order to serve, striving always to protect the welfare of his command, of our country, of the U.S. Constitution, and of the freedoms it protects.

So it is only fitting that we honor him today. On behalf of our Nation and all Utahns, I thank MG Jeff Burton for the sacrifices he and his family have made. His service to our state and the families and loved ones of the veterans. My thoughts and prayers are also extended to the administration of President Lopez Obrador in Mexico, whose inauguration I attended just a few months ago.

This is a sobering task to have to identify the sources of such a heinous and barbaric crime. I have every expectation, every hope, and every confidence in those who are assigned on both sides of the border to investigate this crime, figure out who did it, and bring those responsible to justice.

Mexico is a good neighbor to us. We have about $1.6 billion or $1.7 billion every single day that crosses our shared southern border. Mexico has been a good neighbor, a solid trade partner, and I am proud of the way in which we share many interests. It is a country that desperately needs our prayers right now and our help and assistance.

It has been publicly reported that President Trump and his administration are eager to help President Lopez Obrador in combating and detecting whoever was responsible for this heinous crime and bringing them to justice. I hope and implore the Lopez Obrador administration to accept President Trump’s generous offer to help.

This is not an easy task. If, in fact, this was an act, as it appears quite possible to have been, of a Mexican-based drug cartel, this is a big problem. It is a big problem either way. These drug cartels are no small threat to the safety and security of not only the people of Mexico but also the people of the United States.

Think about it. Imagine someone seeing their next-door neighbor’s back yard a poisonous snake—a poisonous snake that is big and that is headed toward their property. Is that neighbor going to stop and ignore that snake? In many circumstances, that neighbor is going to take action. He might not wait until his neighbor comes home to give the go-ahead to take care of that snake. Why? Because that snake is headed toward his own backyard where his own children are playing.

This is not something we can trifling with. This is not an issue of utmost seriousness for the safety and security of the Mexican people and also the people of the United States.
I applaud the Lopez Obrador administration for its efforts to root out corruption and to bring justice to the drug cartels. This brazen attack within the last 48 hours signals a need to do more. This is why I am so grateful to President Trump, who was willing to reach out and offer the assistance that can be provided by the United States. I urge President Lopez Obrador to accept it and to do so very soon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CUMMINGS, has no objection.

First of all, I have never come to the floor of the Senate—and previously of the House—as ill-prepared as today, but I want to follow up on something my friend from Utah just spoke about, and that is the attack on the innocent people in the last 48 hours. When I learned of it last night, I was stunned. I just got off the phone a few minutes ago with the brother and sister of one of the victims. A young mother, Anita Miller, along with her four children. They were in the first SUV that was shot up and burnt. They were on their way to Phoenix to pick up their dad from North Dakota—Howard—who was working on an oil rig as this is taking place. I talked to Howard’s brother Kenny and his sister Heather. All of the Millers and the LeBarons who are victims of this have many, many family members in North Dakota. The states of businesses in the State of North Dakota. They are hard-working, faithful people.

It was a hard phone call to make. This was a hard message to deliver. And I didn’t really know what to deliver except that I wanted them to know that the people of their country, Mexico, and that what they have experienced is certainly the personification of evil in the form of these thugs from this cartel, for some people who know reckless abandon. They have no regard for life, even the life of innocent children. But we serve a God who personifies pure good, and the greatest response to pure evil is pure love. As people of faith, we know pure love is personified in our Lord. So tonight, my message to the families in Mexico, North Dakota, and Utah is that we love them. We love them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The roll will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum will be rescinded.

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

HEALTHCARE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I wanted to speak for a few minutes today to talk a little bit about rural America and how we can help our rural communities. I have been working on this problem with my friend from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, and he spoke about this on the floor a few minutes ago. We recognized from the beginning that throwing money at the problems will not solve the problems. We will focus on incentivizing the adoption of telehealth and telemedicine. But implementation of telehealth will not eliminate the need for face-to-face interactions between patients and doctors.

This leads us to another problem. Rural communities keep themselves afloat on strapped budgets, which means that plans to open as much as a bare-bones urgent care facility can be derailed by all the startup costs. The Rural Health Innovation Act—the second part of the agenda—features two grant programs. The first one will fund the expansion of existing healthcare centers—such as local nursing homes—into urgent care walk-in clinics. Facilities will be able to use grant money to purchase equipment, hire physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other essential staff.

A second grant program will expand rural health departments to meet urgent care and triage needs. This is using programs that already exist, tailoring them to the needs of rural America.

Of course, this points out the third issue: Expanded facilities are useless if there are no medical personnel. I have been working on this problem with my friend from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, and he spoke about this on the floor a few minutes ago. We recognized from the beginning that throwing money and equipment at an updated facility will not convince medical professionals to establish a rural practice, so we wrote the Rural America Health Corps Act to encourage practitioners to set up shop in rural areas. The bill creates a new student loan repayment program that doctors and other medical professionals can take advantage of in exchange for those loan payments, they will have to agree to serve for at least 5 years in a rural area with a health

...
The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 8, as follows:

**YEAS—85**

Alexander     Feinstein     Portman
Balduin       Fischer       Reed
Barrasso      Gardner       Risch
Bennet        Graham        Roberts
Blackburn      Grassley      Romney
Blumenthal   Heinrich       Rosen
Blunt         Hawley        Rounds
Boozman       Hoeven        Rubio
Brown         Hyde-Smith      Sasane
Cantwell      Inhofe        Scott (FL)
Capito        Johnson       Scott (SC)
Cardin         Jones         Shaheen
Carper        Kaine         Shelby
Cassidy       King          Smith
Collins       Lankford      Sullivan
Coons         Leahy         Tester
Cornyn        Lee           Thune
Cortez Masto  Manchin       Udall
Cotton        McConnell     Van Hollen
Crab         McSally        Van Hollen
Crapo         Moran         Van Hollen
Crux          Murkowski     Warner
Daines        Murphy        Whitehouse
Duckworth     Murray        Wicker
Durbin        Paul          Wyden
Eini          Perdue        Young
Ernst         Peters        Young

**NAYS—8**

Gillibrand   Menendez        Schumer
Hirono        Merkley        Stabenow
Markey        Schatz

**NOT VOTING—7**

Booker        Isakson        Warren
Burr          Kobuchar       Sanders
Harris        Sanders

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider was considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be notified of the Senate’s action.

**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 senior 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.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. MCSALLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 18, as follows:

**YEAS—75**

Alexander     Fischer       Peters
Balduin       Gardner       Portman
Barrasso      Graham        Risch
Bennet        Grassley      Roberts
Blackburn      Grassley      Romney
Blumenthal   Heinrich       Rosen
Blunt         Hawley        Rounds
Boozman       Hoeven        Rubio
Brown         Hyde-Smith      Sasane
Cantwell      Inhofe        Scott (FL)
Capito        Johnson       Scott (SC)
Cardin         Jones         Shaheen
Carper        Kaine         Shelby
Cassidy       King          Smith
Collins       Lankford      Smith
Coons         Leahy         Sullivan
Corin         Lee           Tester
Cortez Masto  Manchin       Udall
Cotton        McConnell     Tester
Crab         McSally        Udall
Crapo         Moran         Udall
Daines        Murphy        Udall
Duckworth     Murray        Udall
Durbin        Paul          Udall
Eini          Perdue        Udall
Ernst         Peters        Udall
Feinstein     Perdue        Udall

**NOT VOTING—7**

Booker        Isakson        Udall
Burr          Kobuchar       Udall
Harris        Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 75, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

**HEALTHCARE**

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Thank you, Madam President.

This weekend, thousands of Tennesseans and, of course, millions across this Nation are going to pause and give thanks for our veterans. Quite frankly, this is something we should be doing every single day.
I am just amazed and so grateful that there are men and women, like the Presiding Officer, who have worn the uniform and who have served—brave men and women who wake up every day in some of the most dangerous places on the face of the Earth and do a job that would bring many of us to our knees. We look at this and say it is basically impossible.

When our veterans have done their part and come home, they find themselves in a set of struggles. The challenges the veterans face are well documented, and we hear about them: long waits and long lines at VA hospitals and clinics, long recoveries from battle wounds that they have suffered outside of the VA healthcare system. VA clinicians are supposed to check this database before prescribing opioid-based and other controlled medications to make sure their patients—that patient in front of them, that veteran in front of them—are not receiving too many pills from multiple sources.

Get this. That Office of Inspector General report—the OIG report—showed the percentage of our VA patients who were prescribed opioids walked out of the pharmacy, medication in hand, without a VA clinician ever having performed the minimum required checks. So the system is there. It could be utilized, but what happens? The clinician gives the prescription but never checks the database in 73 percent of the cases.

This failure to follow through puts 19 percent of those patients at risk for problems with their care coordination, and almost half of those VA patients were under long-term care for chronic pain and were at a higher risk for opioid-use disorder and overdose.

We look at these reports time and again, and we say: How in the world could this possibly happen? How could this be acceptable? It is not. We look at how it has happened, and here is what we found out. It happened because the VA didn’t make the rules clear enough.

Get this. Officials highly recommended that clinicians submit a PDMP query, but they didn’t explicitly state that it was required under existing VA directives, and there were no national oversight controls to act as a backstop. So the rule is there, but a bureaucrat, a clinician, says: Well, they recommend it, but it is not required, we don’t have to do that.

Along with their report, the OIG handed the VA a laundry list of recommendations, including directives to develop national oversight programs, better train their clinicians—that one should be a part of an aspirated accountability checks into the technology used to track patient care. VA officials have submitted now-approved corrective action plans, and we thank the VA Secretary for this. It is our job to make sure that they do follow through with this.

The lack of organization that turned VA clinics into unwitting pill pushers has made it almost impossible for veterans to seek help during times of mental and emotional stress.

In September, the VA published a report that confirmed our worst fears. As of 2017, there has been no significant change in veteran suicide rates. In 2017, the suicide rate for veterans in Tennessee hit 32.6 percent, which is significantly higher than the overall national suicide rate. It will take more than 1 day of recognition to fix this. It is going to take commitment and an all-hands-on-deck approach. I am an original sponsor of the Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act, which will help vets connect to the over 50,000 existing suicide prevention programs that are ready and waiting to be helpful. The bill will also give regulators a tool to measure how effective these programs are. It is a good start, but it is not enough.

Earlier this year, President Trump launched the PREVENTS Initiative, and we thank him for this attention to the needs of our veterans. PREVENTS establishes a cabinet-level task force responsible for finding the root causes of disconnect between veterans and helpful services from the VA and private organizations. Their job is to develop a strategy for Federal, State, and community leaders to engage with veterans, improve research and access to resources, and work from the ground up to prevent suicide.

Here is the caveat: This work will only happen if we remain in constant contact with our veterans and use those interactions to find the cracks that veterans continue to fall through.

For years, we have listened to frustrated complaints from agency officials insisting that untangling the VA’s procedural knots is an exercise in futility. Sometimes you hear: Well, it just can’t be done. We do things this way because we have always done things this way. That is not necessarily true. We do them because oversight has not been exercised.

It is time for all of us—not just lawmakers and rulemakers—to finally accept that “honoring their service”—honoring the service of these heroes—means helping these heroes heal when they need it and not leaving them at the mercy of a broken and bloated bureaucracy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNEL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation votes on the Rudofsky and Wilson nominations occur at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 6. If further action on the Hunsaker nomination occurs at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6, and that following the disposition of the Hunsaker nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Nardini nomination. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the Rudofsky, Wilson, and Nardini nominations, that the confirmation votes occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader on Thursday, November 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNEL. Madam President, this upcoming Veterans Day gives every American the opportunity to pause and pay tribute to the many sacrifices of those men and women who served in our Armed Forces. Out of devotion to this country and our values, these brave servicemembers made the world a safer place. It is a sincere privilege to extend my gratitude to each and every one of them.

I am especially proud to recognize the nearly 300,000 American veterans who call Kentucky home. After their military service, many of these Kentuckians came home and continued selflessly giving to their communities and our Nation. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to a special Kentucky veteran today, Dan McDaniel of Kenton County. Six days after he graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1972, Dan became one of the final draftees his community sent into the military. Following his basic training, Dan was sent with his wife, Linda, to Augsburg, Germany, as a field artillery crewman. He
served there until he received an honorable discharge that brought the couple home to Kenton County.

Using his degree in social studies, Dan taught history for a short time in Northern Kentucky. Then, a few years later, Dan and his brother Mike started a small concrete business comprised of their basements. For nearly four decades, Mike and Dan grew their business and earned respect in Northern Kentucky and the greater region as full service concrete contractors. In 2008, the brothers sold their business to Dan's son, Chris, who runs the company to this day.

The family business isn’t the only way Chris has followed his father’s footsteps, however. After graduating from The Citadel, Chris served 4 years in the Army as an infantry officer. Today, he is continuing to serve the Bluegrass State as a prominent member of the Kentucky State Senate. Like so many veterans, both Dan and Chris continue serving the country by giving back to their community, to our Commonwealth, and this great Nation.

So, on this Veterans Day, I am grateful to all those who served our country in uniform. Our Commonwealth is made stronger because of their example. To Dan and Chris McDaniel, all Kentucky veterans, and their families, it is an honor to say thank you.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN OTT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to recognize Kathleen “Kathy” Ott, who recently retired from her role as the Director of the Library of Congress’ Congressional Relations Office after 11 years of dedicated service to the Library and to Congress.

Appointed in 2008 by former Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, Kathy was sought after by the Library for her extensive experience interfacing with Congress from both the public and private sectors. As the director of the Library’s Congressional Relations Office, she spent more than a decade of her career building strong bipartisan relationships between the Library, Congress, and congressional staff.

Kathy has had the privilege of serving two Librarians of Congress, Dr. James Billington and Dr. Carla D. Hayden. Kathy was instrumental in supporting Dr. Hayden’s confirmation process. With the help of Kathy’s tireless effort throughout the nomination process, Dr. Hayden was overwhelmingly confirmed in a bipartisan fashion by the Senate during the 114th Congress.

In her time at the Library, Kathy has shaped the Library’s relationship with Congress through 3 Presidential administrations, 6 Congresses, and 11 budget and appropriations cycles, building bipartisan support for Library of Congress initiatives along the way. Additionally, she worked with 10 different chairs of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee and House Administration Committee. As a member of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, I always appreciated Kathy’s thorough and dutiful commitment to her role, the Library, and Congress.

During her tenure, Kathy has welcomed nearly 500 new Members of Congress during their freshman orientation activities hosted at the Library. She also created the bipartisan Library of Congress Caucus in the 111th Congress, and I am proud to serve on it with Representatives of both parties. Moreover, she helped to coordinate the congressional participation in the award of the Library’s Gershwin Prize for Popular Song to the likes of Sir Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Smokey Robinson, as well as other noteworthy musical artists.

In her position, Kathy also played an integral role in the launch of the Library’s popular Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series in 2013, which has just concluded its 45th dinner. Marcelle and I have had the pleasure of enjoying many wonderful nights at the Library attending these delightful dinners and discussions.

Marcelle and I have had so many wonderful experiences with Kathy. I have to mention one especially. When Pope Francis came to speak at a joint meeting of Congress, Kathy had arranged to have a special Bible from the Library’s collection available to be blessed by the Pope. She knew the Pope would bless it, so she arranged to have with it several religious medals and other things important to her and her family available to be a part of the blessing. I know the Pope didn’t mind, and those of us there thought, “This is why we think the world of her.”

Kathy has always been known as a reliable and trusted source for Library of Congress information. She will be greatly missed by Members of Congress and congressional staff alike. Marcelle and I wish Kathy the best in retirement.

BAT WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in the midst of fall celebrations such as Halloween or, for fans in Washington and Houston, the World Series, I want to take a moment to highlight another important annual celebration that occurred this fall. The Vermont Maple Sugaring Festival.

It is fitting that last week, the Senate approved an appropriations bill to fund the Fish and Wildlife Service. At this time each year, we join our friends at the Fish and Wildlife Service, conservation groups around the world, and bat enthusiasts to recognize the irreplaceable role of bats and to highlight our urgent fight to protect them.

Many do not know the profound impact that bats have on our environment and our economy. For an agricultural state like Vermont, bats are vital to not only our ecosystem but our economy as well. The controls pests, pollinate crops, and even spread seeds. Some farmers would consider bats among their best friends. For years, I have worked on the Appropriations Committee to prioritize funding for habitat conservation and to stop the spread of white-nose syndrome. I am proud that the fiscal year 2020 Interior bill once again responds to the call of the bat signal and provides more than $7 million to combat white-nose, a disease that has devastated bat communities across the country.

So once again I hope Senators will join me in recognizing the importance of bats and keep the advocacy behind Bat Week going throughout the year.

RECOGNIZING VERMONT’S MAPLE INDUSTRY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Vermont sets the gold standard for the maple industry, and maple is integral to our State’s economy and to our State’s identity. That includes our maple industries, and businesses that keep this sector vibrant and viable are also an essential part of the fabric of our State. I am proud to recognize one of those businesses today. Nestled along the western slopes of Vermont’s highest peak, Mount Mansfield, Runamok Maple is one of the roughly 1500 sugar producers in Vermont that produce nearly half of the Nation’s maple syrup. Owned and operated by Laura and Eric Sorkin, Runamok Maple exemplifies the innovation and entrepreneurship that is re-vitalizing communities across Vermont.

Maple sugaring is a tradition carried forward and refined by each new generation of Vermonters. The Sorkins themselves benefited from the mentorship of nearby sugar producers before launching their own business a decade ago. In 2016, recognizing an opportunity, they pumped money and energy into a diversification effort that included a retail line of flavor-infused and barrel-aged syrups, all packaged and branded for the direct sales market. Two years later, I was proud to support funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission that in turn allowed Fairfax, VT, to expand wastewater infrastructure to Runamok’s new manufacturing home, an old facility that once manufactured Scrabble game tiles. The improvements enabled Runamok’s expansion from 45 to 100 employees and revitalized a part of the historic town.

Through their products, writings, and creativity, the Sorkins and their outstanding staff are not only producing world-class value-added products, they are changing how people think about maple syrup. Long gone are the days when it was considered a mere condiment for pancakes. I was not surprised, then, to see Runamok Maple featured in a recent Washington Post article about the many possibilities of Vermont’s sweetest export.

In recognition of the families across our State who continue to keep this bedrock Vermont sector thriving, I ask...
Vermont? "When you need a strong maple flavor in a bread or cookie, ice cream, or barbeque sauce, this is the grade of choice."

Storage. Keep unopened maple syrup in a cool, dry spot, out of direct light. The Vermont Maple Producers Association recommends storing opened maple syrup in the refrigerator. Or to keep it in very good shape, you can boil it, going through as many freezing and thawing cycles as you want, the group says, as long as you let it thaw completely and stir in any condensation that forms while it's there. Even when properly stored, maple syrup can crystallize. In "The Clever Cook's Kitchen Handbook: 5,007 Ingenious Hints, Secrets, and Shortcuts," author David Joachim suggests heating the jar of syrup in a pan of hot water over low heat until the crystals disolve. (Move the syrup to a glass jar once heated, Joachim cautions.) Or try microwaving it for 10 to 15 seconds on medium power. Of course, you can consider it candy and just eat the crystals, too. Joachim says you can salvage moldy maple syrup by scraping or straining out the mold and bringing the syrup to a full boil and reheating it. To avoid crystallizing, use a dark grade.

Substituting. "Maple syrup is about as sweet as sugar, so you can replace it using an equal amount of syrup," according to the Vermont Maple Producers Association. Recipe writer Arthur K. Flour. "Decrease the liquid by 3 to 4 tablespoons for half the recipe."

For recipes that call for a specific grade, Sorkin suggests gently heating the maple syrup to bring the crystals back out into a smooth progression along with the color, then adding in some flavoring or spices, Sorkin suggests gently heating the maple syrup to bring the crystals back out into a smooth progression along with the color, then adding in some flavoring or spices. Maple syrup on a cheese board? Go for the dark grades, as they "have more flavor and tend to have more of a roasty, smoky taste, which is great for cheese pairings," Sorkin says. "We would never pair a sweet maple syrup with a cheese like a Cheddar. You want to do something dark and woodland-y like maple syrup with a blue cheese."

You might know this from its previous grade. "Mild maple taste," according to the USDA. This grade is labeled B grade. "We have been using it as a glaze for meat and vegetables. We've all poured maple syrup over our pancakes and waffles. Maybe even a little too much—a drizzle on top of a sweet potato and tahini dip. Her other recipes include maple vinaigrettes, roasted vegetable soups. Always worth considering: Maple butter. Need some more ideas? Here are a few contenders from our archives:

Maple-Chipotle Basting Sauce. Consider using a darker grade for this sauce, which is right at home on pork or any other grilled meat. Maple Spiced Glazed Nuts. These are definitely worth adding to your party food repertoire, they make a great snack. Grilled Maple-Marinated Portobello Mushrooms. Maple syrup is paired with soy sauce and earthy mushrooms for an umami-rich main dish. Maple-Chipotle Basting Sauce. Consider using a darker grade for this sauce, which is right at home on pork or any other grilled meat.
Marketing provides visitors with a map of the Vermont Cheese Trail created by the Vermont Cheese Council. It features locations where visitors can experience over 150 varieties of cheeses. Great cheese requires great dairy farmers, and those are local to our State’s economy and tradition.

I am proud to celebrate the success of all the cheese producers throughout my home State of Vermont and want now to recognize the Vermont cheesemakers receiving awards from this year’s American Cheese Council. They include Barn First Creamery, Westfield; Boston Post Dairy, Enosburg Falls; Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Cabot; Fairy Tale Farm, Bridport; Grafton Village Cheese Company, Grafton; Jasper Hill Farm, Greensboro; Maplebrook Farm, Bennington; Mt. Manafield Creamery, Morrisville; Parish Hill Creamery, West Westminster; Sage Farm Goat Dairy, Stowe; Spring Brook Dairy, City Kids Foundation, Reading; Vermont Creamery, Westervile; Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company, Woodstock; Vermont Shepherd, Putney; and Von Trapp Farmstead, Waitsfield.

**VOTE EXPLANATION**

Ms. HARRIS. Madam President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on the rollcall vote No. 243, the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 119, Michael T. Liburdi to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 235, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 120, Peter D. Welte to be U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 236 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 119, Michael T. Liburdi to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 237, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 120, Peter D. Welte to be U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 238 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 203, James Wesley Hendrix to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 240 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 204, Sean D. Jordan to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 241 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 204, Sean D. Jordan to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 243, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 205, Mark T. Pittman to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 245 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 231, Jeffrey Vincent Brown to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 247 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 232, Brantley Starr to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 248 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 345, Jason K. Pulliam to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 249 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 350, Martha Maria Pacold to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 250 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 352, Steven C. Seeger to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 251 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 364, William Shaw Stickman IV to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 252 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 365, Frank William Volk, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 253, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 366, Charles R. Eskridge III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 254 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 371, Rachel P. Kovner to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 255 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 373, Brantley Starr to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 256 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 380, Jason K. Pulliam to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 257 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 350, Martha Maria Pacold to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 276 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 233, Stephanie Haines to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 279 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 352, Steven C. Seeger to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 315 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 359, Frank William Volk, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 316 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 328, David John Novak, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 317 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 348, Rachel P. Kovner to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 320 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 359, Frank William Volk, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 321 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 366, Charles R. Eskridge III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.
TRIBUTE TO RANDY VEACH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Arkansas Farm Bureau President Randy Veach for his years of dedication to Natural State farm families and rural communities and celebrate his leadership, advocacy, and passion for agriculture as his service as president comes to a close.

As a third-generation farmer, Randy has made advocating for the rural way of life his calling. He grew up on his family’s farm in the community of Lost Cane in Mississippi County. He continues farming on that land with his wife Thelma where they grow cotton, soybeans, rice, wheat, corn, and milo.

His commitment to the industry has extended beyond his own fields. For decades, Randy has been a voice for Arkansas agriculture producers, working to develop policies that benefit farmers. He has served in a number of leadership positions at the local level up to the national level. He is a member of the American Farm Bureau board of directors, and in 2015, he was appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Trade Advisory Committee for Tobacco, Cotton, and Peanuts.

For 11 years, Randy has been at the helm of Arkansas Farm Bureau where he worked to advance the priorities of farmers and ranchers. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I have been blessed to have Randy’s knowledge, experience, and insight to help craft farm bills and ag policy that support Arkansas’ agricultural industry and strengthen rural communities throughout our state.

I am grateful for the friendship we have built, for his advice, and most importantly, his service on behalf of our State’s farmers and ranchers. Although his time as president is ending, I know his advocacy for agriculture will continue.

I wish Randy and Thelma much happiness in this next chapter of their lives.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Ms. CORTIZ MASTO. Madam President, I come forward today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation. Founded in 1919, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation has been a strong voice for Nevada’s farmers and ranchers. Unbeknownst to many, Nevada is home to some of the largest agricultural operations in the Nation, and over the past 100 years, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation has provided a reliable and steady source of advocacy for the agricultural community in the Silver State.

On February 25, 1919, Assemblyman Care C. Tidd of Smith, NV, introduced Nevada Assembly Bill 110 in the Nevada Legislature. The purpose of the bill was to provide for cooperative agricultural and home economics extension work in several counties in accordance with the Smith-Lever Act and provide for the organization of county farm bureaus. Following formation of an authorized county farm bureau, the bill directed that bureau as the official body within county for carrying on extension work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with the Cooperative Services Program and the Land-Grant University System. The first Nevada Farm Bureau office was founded in Lyon County.

Over the course of the past century, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation has evolved from its original form into a private nonprofit organization and strong advocate for the State’s farmers and ranchers, voicing the concerns of its membership to policymakers at the local, State, and federal levels. Additionally, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation continues its century-old partnership with Cooperative Extension in the Silver State.

The Nevada Farm Bureau Federation is currently made up of 11 county farm bureau organizations representing nearly 18,000 family members. I am pleased to recognize the Nevada Farm Bureau’s 100 years of service to Nevadans and our great State and wish the group well in continuing its work on behalf of farmers and ranchers for many years to come.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I come before the Senate today to honor the life of Kay Hagan, who I had the honor of serving in Congress with from 2013 to 2014. A beloved public servant, Kay was a woman, mother, wife, and cherished friend. Kay passed away last month at the age of 66.

I admired Kay’s ability to find common ground and work in a bipartisan manner without compromising her core beliefs, as evidenced by both her many legislative successes and her many courageous votes, including healthcare reform and expanded background checks. She was also a tireless voice for women’s rights, and advocated for hard-working North Carolinians and U.S. servicemembers by fighting to crack down on predatory payday lending.

Roughly a decade before I brought my daughter Maile onto the Senate floor, Kay took on an outdated Senate rule of her own by leading the successful charge to force the Senate swimming pool to allow women. Making the Senate a welcoming place for everyone is an ongoing struggle, but her efforts certainly made it a little bit better for women senators.

Kay was an inspirational role model to young girls and young women in North Carolina, often encouraging them to run for office at her events. I have no doubt that many of them now hold public office.

My deepest sympathies are with Kay’s loved ones. I am grateful for her passionate service to her State and our country, and I am proud to continue her work in the U.S. Senate.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH OF THE JAMES MAGAZINE

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I want to wish a happy 25th anniversary to North of the James magazine and congratulate it on reaching this milestone. I want to thank editor Charles McGuigan and all who worked tirelessly to make the publication what it is today. The magazine started off in a garage in Richmond’s North Side neighborhood. It has been exciting to see the news outlet grow and become an integral part of the community it serves. North of the James has served as a unique, hyper-local voice that Richmonders can relate to. This is evident by the loyal readership in the area throughout all these years.

I am proud that this year, Charles McGuigan was awarded first place for the feature writing portfolio by the Virginia Press Association. He also was awarded second place for the feature titled “Kaity Kasper: Blazing into that Good Night.” I was proud to be featured by the magazine in 2012, and I was humbled to be among great Virginians, like Oliver Hill, who have been on the cover over the years.

Local news is a vital part of our communities. Whether it is keeping readers informed about art exhibits and food or shining a spotlight on Virginians, we are grateful for North of the James’ dedication to serving Richmonders for the past 25 years. I know they will keep up the great work.

REMEMBERING JOHN H. ADLER

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the late John H. Adler. On the occasion of the dedication of the John H. Adler Memorial Park at Challenge Grove in Cherry Hill, NJ.

The Honorable John H. Adler was a remarkable public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of New Jersey residents for decades. Growing up in southern New Jersey, John worked hard in school and overcame many personal challenges to earn his undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University before returning home to Camden County. He began a selfless career in
public service in 1987 when he was elected to the Cherry Hill Township Committee. In 1992, he went on to represent New Jersey’s Sixth Legislative District in the State’s senate, where he served until 2008. There, he rose to the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee and served on the Environmental Committee. One of John’s signature achievements, New Jersey’s Smoke-Free Air Act, has greatly improved the lives of New Jerseyans and will undoubtedly continue to positively impact the health and well-being of our State’s residents for generations.

In 2008, John was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Democratic lawmaker to represent New Jersey’s Third Congressional District in more than a century. Upon his arrival on Capitol Hill, John quickly established a reputation for hard work, compromise, and compassion. He advocated forcefully for seniors, members of the armed services and veterans, the environment, and safety. He recognized the strategic and military importance of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and sought to attract new missions to help preserve the installation’s role in our national defense. He was well known for working across the aisle and overcoming partisanship to accomplish meaningful legislation to the benefit of our families and constituents.

I am honored to have served with John both in the New Jersey Legislature and as members of New Jersey’s Congressional Delegation. John represented the very best of our lawmakers, and his sudden passing in 2011 was an immense loss to the Garden State. Today, John’s wife, Shelley, and their sons, Jeffrey, Alex, Andrew, and Oliver, continue to carry on his legacy of service and extraordinary dedication to our friends, neighbors, and communities.

Mr. President, I acknowledge and commend the Camden County Board of Freeholders on the dedication of the John H. Adler Memorial Park at Challenge Grove as a fitting tribute to remember one of New Jersey’s most honorable sons. I would like to once again recognize, applaud, and remember the Honorable John H. Adler’s extraordinary life and his service to the people of New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING RHINO METALS, INC.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our economy. This week, it is my privilege to honor a business that provides quality women’s clothing while also fostering economic development within its immediate community. It is my pleasure to recognize Pink Stable of Camden, SC, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Pink Stable is a boutique located in historic downtown Camden. Established in 2014, Kathryn Couch’s business provides both classic and trendy clothing at an affordable price for women of all ages. Kathryn filled an empty space in Camden’s downtown after noticing there were few places where women could buy contemporary clothing with an element of southern flair. After securing private financing, she created her unique business plan and quickly developed a loyal customer base. Currently, the business is expanding their brand and brainstorming ideas to create a greater following outside of Camden. Their Instagram page has amassed over 4,000 followers. This social media outlet is used to scale their business and provide merchandise to a wider range of potential customers.

Since its founding, Pink Stable has also made a significant positive impact in the community by maintaining its commitment to customer service and products. In 2017, the Main Street South Carolina Program, the city of Camden has allocated $3.25 million to revitalize the historic downtown area and expand the local economy. Kathryn’s business has helped inspire others to consider opening shops and restaurants in downtown Camden. Pink Stable has become an integral part of the community, proving that a Camden-based business can flourish through determination and a well-executed business plan.

Kathryn was recently awarded with the honor of South Carolina Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the South Carolina Small Business Administration in 2019 for her outstanding contributions. Pink Stable has led Kathryn to open another small business in the Camden area, Evelyn’s Bridal Store, which was recognized as South Carolina’s Best Bridal Store in 2017. I am honored to recognize Kathryn and the entire team at Pink Stable as the Senate Small Business of the Week. Their boutique is a great example of how strategic vision and determination can create commercial success, and I look forward to watching their continued growth.

REMEMBERING THOMAS IVERSON, JR.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I have come to the floor to pay tribute to Thomas Iverson, Jr., a longtime New Hampshire resident and law enforcement official who passed away recently at the age of 72. Although he was born in Massachusetts and lived briefly in Maine, George was in many ways a quintessential Granite Stater. He had big personality and a passion for public service that brought him to posts across our great State.

After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war, Tom began his long career in law enforcement with the Manchester Police Department. He served in New Hampshire’s Queen City for 6 years before, at the age of 26, becoming chief of police for the town of Bradford, a small community of roughly 1000 residents west of Concord. He continued his commitment to protecting communities across New Hampshire, leading the Merrimack Police Department, chief of police in Pembroke, and finally serving as chief of the Litchfield Police Department. Following a law enforcement career that spanned three and a half decades with service in five towns, Tom retired in 2004.

Though a full retirement would have been well-deserved, Tom wanted to
continue dedicating his life to public service. His next move took him to Maine, where he was named the director of the Emergency Management Agency for Piscataquis County in 2005, acting as a link between communities and the State in responding to natural and manmade disasters in Maine’s least populous county. He returned to the Granite State in 2012 and became involved in courthouse security for the New Hampshire Judicial Branch’s facilities in Manchester.

Throughout his career, Tom was a strong proponent of what we now know as community policing. He knew the value of police officers building trust and forging strong ties with the people they serve. When he served as chief in Bradford, Pembroke, and Litchfield, Tom was a reliable and approachable presence in the community. His commitment to this community-based approach did not surprise those who knew him and his commitment to helping and enjoying the company of others. At many local events, he was known to bring his trademark Norwegian meatballs with pasta. Although incredibly giving of his time and wisdom, Tom kept this recipe a closely-held secret.

The Granite State and the many communities he served are grateful for his many gifts and acts of selfless service. In the last month, family and friends have gathered to share and cherish their many fond memories of him. I am with them in spirit as they reflect on the life of this good and generous man.

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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4842. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 995. A bill to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

S. 1183. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1399. A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Acts to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs.

S. 1608. A bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of clinical activity recommendations for Americans.

S. 1657. A bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2511. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court of the District of Columbia with authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3619. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start program.

S. 3629. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 3749. A bill to extend 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.

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. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. SHINNAN): S. 2706. A bill to direct the Attorney General to make grants to States that have in place a law providing for the rights of sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BURR): S. 2711. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to protect consumers from excessive rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND): S. 2772. A bill to amend title XVII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologist physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CAHN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RANKIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOUCHAR, and Ms. WARREN): S. 2773. A bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAINKE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. COONS: S. 2774. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. ROSEN): S. 2775. A bill to improve the cyber workforce of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HAWLEY): S. 2776. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons who engage in the hostage-taking or wrongful detention of United States persons who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN): S. 2777. A bill to assist States, tribes, territories, counties, and cities in implementing the Family First Preventive Services Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORNYN): S. 2778. A bill to reform the EB–5 Immigrant Investor Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. RUHLO): S. 2779. A bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH): S. 2780. A bill to establish a training facility to support functions relating to the licensing of commercial space launch and reentry activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY: S. 2781. A bill to prohibit the involvement of immediate family members of senior United States Government officials with Ukrainian entities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL: S. 2782. A bill to improve provisions of law relating to sexual harassment and assault prevention at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ENZI: S. 2783. 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; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MARKEY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNET): S. 2784. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to establish "Family Friendly School" policies that ensure primary elementary school students start the school day with the work day to better support working families and to disseminate the
learnings from these model schools so that other local educational agency’s may adopt these practices, and to establish a supplemental 21st century community learning centers to support programs and activities during summer recess when school is not in session; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BALDWIN; Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. BROWNLEY. S. 2785. A bill to set forth a method of determining maximum out-of-pocket limits and annual updates to premium tax credit eligibility under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SULLIVAN); Mr. BARRASSO. S. 2786. A bill to establish a Federal advisory committee to provide policy recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on positioning the United States to take advantage of emerging opportunities for Arctic maritime transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. Res. 406. A resolution recognizing that for 50 years, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, have worked with the United States toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia, and expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States will continue to remain a strong, reliable, and active partner in the ASEAN region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KAINKE (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 497. A resolution congratulating the Washington Nationals on winning the 2019 Major League Baseball World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Con. Res. 28. A concurrent resolution urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 170

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the amount of certain qualified conservation contributions.

S. 179

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 179, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 477

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) 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. 490

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 610, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 762

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 780

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 762, a bill to provide for funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for all Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. 814

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1102

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to promote security and energy partnerships in the Eastern Mediterranean, and for other purposes.

S. 1238

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1238, a bill to provide requirements for Executive agencies spending at the end of a fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 1380

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1380, a bill to amend the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to remind prosecutors of their obligations under Supreme Court case law.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1423

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a “Ghost Army”
that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1458, a bill to codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1583, a bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1665, a bill to modify the procedures for issuing special recreation permits for certain public land units, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1766, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1804, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to issue guidelines relating to the appropriate inclusion of residential manufactured homes in Consolidated Plans, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1820, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1846, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to require the Department of Justice to provide for payment of proceeds to the families of victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell Agricultural Research Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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.

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2216, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINO) 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.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors 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.

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Ms. ROSEN) and the name of the Senator from New York (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors 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.

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2417, a bill to provide for payment of proceeds from savings bonds to a State with title to such bonds pursuant to the judgment of a court.

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Ms. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to pay State and local emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2459, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of certain disputes arising from claims of servicemembers and veterans.
At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Merkley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2339, a bill to modify and reauthorize the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Markey, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. Harris) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) were added as cosponsors of S. 2590, a bill to establish a Global Climate Change Resilience Commission that authorize the admission of climate-displaced persons, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to provide rental assistance to low-income tenants of certain multifamily rural housing projects, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Paul) were added as cosponsors of S. 2590, a bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Durbin, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) 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.

At the request of Ms. Harris, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2625, a bill to authorize the admission of a limited number of Kurdish Syrian and other Syrian partners as special immigrants, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Warner, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2625, a bill to authorize the admission of a limited number of Kurdish Syrians and other Syrian partners as special immigrants, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Risch, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Barraso, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Inhofe) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2662, a bill to amend sections 111, 169, and 171 of the Clean Air Act to clarify when a physical change in, or change in the method of operation of, a stationary source constitutes a modification or construction, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. McSally, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2666, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) were added as cosponsors of S. 2679, a bill to facilitate the voluntary acquisition of citizen for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Hoeven) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds) were added as cosponsors of S. 2700, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Peters, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Blunt) were added as cosponsors of S. 2749, a bill to provide requirements for the .gov domain, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. McSally, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Operation Stonegarden grant program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Enzi, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Scott) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) were added as cosponsors of S. 2765, a bill to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process.

At the request of Mrs. Blackburn, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cuénnyn) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 98, a resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Senators of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury.

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 112, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States government must continue to address the threats against children in conflict zones.

At the request of Mr. Coons, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Gardner) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 371, a resolution reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.

At the request of Mr. Blumenthal, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Gardner), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 385, a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. Murray), the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 404, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should continue to cooperate with international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 406—RECOGNIZING THAT FOR 50 YEARS, THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN), AND ITS TEN MEMBERS, BRUNEI, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, LAOS, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, AND VIETNAM, HAVE WORKED WITH THE UNITED STATES TOWARD STABILITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN A STRONG, RELIABLE, AND ACTIVE PARTNER IN THE ASEAN REGION**

Mr. Menendez (for himself, Mr. Risch, Mr. Markey, and Mr. Gardner) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 406

Whereas the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) represent a variety of different cultures and beliefs as well as vibrant economies giving rise to a flourishing middle class; and

Whereas an estimated 70,000,000 United States citizens identify with an ethnicity represented in ASEAN, including 4,000,000 Filipinos and 1,900,000 Vietnamese; and

Whereas the United States and ASEAN have been cooperating to advance our mutual interests for 40 years, having first established dialogue relations on December 10, 1977, with the issuing of the 1977 Joint Communique of the First ASEAN-United States

Whereas the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN on April 29, 2008, and the first to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas cooperation between the United States Government and the governments and people of ASEAN nations can help realize their common goals of a peaceful, prosperous, and open Indo-Pacific rooted in a rule-based system of security, opportunity, and dignity to all peoples;

Whereas, in 2019, ASEAN’s 10 members represent the sixth-largest economy in the world, and the United States fourth-largest export market, with total exports to ASEAN countries reaching $115,300,000,000, representing the number one destination for United States investment in the Indo-Pacific with $329,000,000,000 in cumulative foreign direct investment;

Whereas ASEAN nations host critical global sea lanes located at the heart of the world’s most dynamic economic regions, with $5,300,000,000,000 of global trade and more than half of the world’s total shipped tonnage transiting through ASEAN waters each year;

Whereas the ultimate goal of the ASEAN Economic Community is to create one of the world’s biggest economies and facilitate the free movement of goods, services, and professionals;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Single Window custom facilitation system expedites intra-ASEAN trade and enhances the ability of United States businesses to operate in the region;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive, Small, and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) has trained more than 4,600 small-to-medium size enterprises, with nearly half of the participants being women entrepreneurs;

Whereas the Lower Mekong Initiative, established on July 21, 2009, promotes sustainable economic development in mainland Southeast Asia and fosters regional cooperation, integration, and capacity building;

Whereas some members have committed to working with ASEAN to improve the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the people of ASEAN countries, a key ingredient to maintaining stability, promoting economic growth, and advancing good governance;

Whereas the United States opposes all claims in the maritime domain that infringe on the rights, freedoms, and lawful use of the sea that belongs to all nations, and has a national and moral interest in the unimpeded freedom of navigation and overflight, open access to Asia’s maritime commons, and respect for international law in the South China Sea;

Whereas the United States does not take sides on the competing territorial disputes, but nevertheless believes claimants should pursue territorial claims without resort to coercion, and through collaborative diplomacy, including international arbitration, and in accordance with international law and institutions;

Whereas the United States supports the Philippines’ decision to use arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), done at Montego Bay December 10, 1982, to peacefully and fully address competing territorial claims;

Whereas the United States supports efforts by ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China to establish an Effective Conduct (COC) that, opposes efforts by any nation to use the COC as a vehicle to limit presence in or lawful use of the South China Sea, encourages claimants not to undertake new or unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct of Parties to the South China Sea, and encourages ASEAN countries to adopt a unified position in opposing the illegal claimants;

Whereas the ASEAN-United States Maritime Exercise (AUXM), which ran from September 2, 2019, to September 6, 2019, built on the United States and ASEAN’s strength of the strength of our navy-to-navy bonds, and the strength of our shared belief in a free and open Asia and the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas states in the ASEAN region over the past four decades have resulted in major loss and damage, with a disproportionate impact on developing countries, and the United States will pursue initiatives that are consistent with sustainable development, including the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation, improvement of conservation and sustainable management of forests, fish stocks, and oceanic resources, resilience to extreme weather events, including climate change, and provision of sustainable livelihood for local communities throughout the ASEAN region:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(A) supports and affirms the full implementation of provisions of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (Public Law 115–409) with respect to the United States diplomatic, political, and security cooperation with ASEAN; and

(B) to protect unhindered access to and use of international waterways in the Asia-Pacific region that are critical to ensuring the security and free flow of commerce;

(C) to counter piracy;

(D) to disrupt illicit maritime trafficking activities such as the trafficking of persons, drugs, and arms;

(E) to enhance the maritime capabilities of countries or regional organizations to respond to emerging threats to maritime security;

(F) to remain committed to the principles outlined in the AUSMIN statement that will continue to support and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants;

(G) supports the Lower Mekong Initiative, which has made significant progress in promoting sustainable economic development in mainland Southeast Asia and fostering integrated sub-regional cooperation and capacity building;

(H) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights, including ending extrajudicial killings, ensuring political prisoners are released, and implementing of related priorities, programs, and activities;

(I) encourages ASEAN governments to engage directly with leaders of civil society and human rights, including advocates of religious freedom, victims of human rights abuses, and environmentalists, and to prioritize the construction of forums that give these stakeholders a voice to instruct public policy;

(J) encourages the President of the United States to communicate to ASEAN leaders the importance of protecting human rights, including ending extrajudicial killings, ensuring political prisoners are released, and implementing of related priorities, programs, and activities;

(K) directs the United States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and trafficking in persons, and urges ASEAN to cooperate in the development of plans to create and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants;

(L) urges the ASEAN-USAID PROSPECT project to work to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants;

(M) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights, including ending extrajudicial killings, ensuring political prisoners are released, and implementing of related priorities, programs, and activities;

(N) supports the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative program as an example of people-to-people partnership building that
SENATE RESOLUTION 407—CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS ON WINNING THE 2019 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Whereas, on October 30, 2019, the Washington Nationals won the 2019 Major League Baseball World Series; Whereas that World Series win was the first World Series won by the Washington Nationals in the 51 years that the franchise has been in Major League Baseball; Whereas the last Major League Baseball team in Washington, DC, to win the World Series was the Washington Senators in 1924; Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the Milwaukee Brewers in the National League Championship Series; Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League Division Series; Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League Championship Series; Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the Houston Astros in the World Series; Whereas the Washington Nationals demonstrated team spirit and determination in winning the World Series after starting the regular season 19–31, staying off 5 playoff elimination edges, and being widely considered underdogs in the World Series; Whereas the roster of players for the Washington Nationals for the 2019 World Series included—

(1) Matt Adams;
(2) Asdrúbal Cabrera;
(3) Patrick Corbin;
(4) Sean Doolittle;
(5) Brian Dozier;
(6) Adam Eaton;
(7) Yan Gomes;
(8) Javy Guerra;
(9) Daniel Hudson;
(10) Howie Kendrick;
(11) Gerardo Parra;
(12) Steven Strasburg;
(13) Anthony Rendon;
(14) Victor Robles;
(15) Fernando Rodney;
(16) Joe Ross;
(17) Aníbal Sánchez;
(18) Max Scherzer;
(19) Juan Soto;
(20) Stephen Strasburg;
(21) Wander Suero;
(22) Kurt Suzuki;
(23) Michael A. Taylor;
(24) Trea Turner; and
(25) Ryan Zimmerman;

Whereas Stephen Strasburg received the Most Valuable Player award for the 2019 World Series; Whereas Mike Rizzo, General Manager and President of Baseball Operations, and Dave Martinez, Manager, provided outstanding leadership and guided the Washington Nationals to their first World Series victory; Whereas the Principal Owners of the Washington Nationals, Theodore N. Lerner (Purchasing Principal Owner), Mark D. Lerner (Managing Principal Owner), Annette M. Lerner, Maria Lerner Tanenbaum, Debra Lerner Schmukler, and Kevin Tanenbaum, Edward L. Cohen, and Judy Lenkin Lerner, have contributed greatly to the Nation’s Capital and the National Capital Region through the philanthropic work of The Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation and the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Washington Nationals on winning the 2019 World Series;
(2) applauds the people of the Nation’s Capital and the National Capital Region for their enthusiastic support of the Washington Nationals; and
(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Managing Principal Owner of the Washington Nationals, Mark D. Lerner;
(B) the Principal Owners of the Washington Nationals, Dave Martinez; and
(C) the General Manager and President of Baseball Operations of the Washington Nationals, Mike Rizzo.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 99—URGING ALL NATIONS TO OUTLAW THE DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE AND TO ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS AGAINST SUCH TRADE

Whereas the World Health Organization has linked the dog meat industry to human outbreaks of trichinellosis, cholera, and rabies;

Whereas those involved in the dog meat industry are at an increased health risk for zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, which can transfer from dogs to humans through infected animal material such as saliva;

Whereas the spread of disease may be exacerbated by unsanitary conditions of slaughter and by the sale of dog and cat meat at open-air markets and restaurants;

Whereas the World Health Organization and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control have both acknowledged the link between the spread of rabies and the dog meat trade which sees large numbers of dogs of unknown disease status moved vast distances: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) calls for an end to the consumption and trade of dog and cat meat on cruelty and public health grounds;
(2) urges all nations with a dog or cat meat trade to adopt and enforce laws banning that trade; and
(3) affirms the commitment of the United States to advancing the cause of animal protection and animal welfare, both domestically and around the world.

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 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

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 Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION AND SPACE

The Subcommittee on Aviation and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.
PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Michael Thomas, a member of my staff, during today’s session of the Senate.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

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*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry, Oct. 28, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

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## Consolidated Report of Expenditure of Funds for Foreign Travel by Members and Employees of the U.S. Senate, Under Authority of Sec. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), Committee on Appropriations for Travel from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2019—Continued

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### Note

Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 102(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

**SENATOR RICHARD SHELBY,**
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 25, 2019.

### Consolidated Report of Expenditure of Funds for Foreign Travel by Members and Employees of the U.S. Senate, Under Authority of Sec. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), Committee on Armed Services for Travel from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2019

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*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 501(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1997.*
### Foreign Delegation Expenses: *  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Country</th>
<th>Foreign Currency</th>
<th>U.S. Dollar Equivalent or U.S. Currency</th>
<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

---

### AMENDED 2ND QTR CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, TO JUNE 30, 2019

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### Delegation Expenses: *  

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<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
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### AMENDED 2ND QTR CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

**Delegation Expenses:**

<table>
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<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>93.67</td>
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**Total:**

|              | Foreign currency | 14,746.51 | 44,661.15 | 18,771.71 | 80,179.37 |

*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954 as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

**CONсолIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

**Name and country**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
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*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

**CONсолIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

**Name and country**

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<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
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*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

**CONсолIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

**Name and country**

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<td>4,772.86</td>
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*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

**Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 3, 2019.**

**Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 3, 2019.**

**Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 25, 2019.**

**Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 3, 2019.**

**Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 25, 2019.**

**Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 3, 2019.**

**Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 25, 2019.**
**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE**  
November 5, 2019

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued**

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<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
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*Delegation expenses include expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1517.*

**SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,**  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 15, 2019.
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**El Salvador** ............................................................................................... Dollar ... .................... .................... .................... .......... .......... 153.00 .................... 153.00

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**United Kingdom** ........................................................................................ Pound ... .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 1,150.33

**United States** ............................................................................................ Dollar ... .................... 1,068.33 .................... .. .................. .................... 1,068.33

**United Kingdom** ........................................................................................ Pound ... .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 1,168.97

**Montenegro** ............................................................................................... Euro ... .................... .................... ........... ......... 2,532.80 .................... 2,532.80

**Italy** ........................................................................................................... Euro ... 646.96 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 646.96

**Delegation Expenses:**

**Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Under Authority of Sec. 22, P.L. 95–384—22**

**Senator Lindsey Graham,**


### Delegation Expenses:

**Germany** .................................................................................................... Euro ... 752.62 .................... .................... .................... .. .................. .................... 752.62

**United States** ............................................................................................ Dollar ... .................... 15,406.83 .................... . ................... .................... 15,406.83

**Germany** .................................................................................................... Euro ... .................... 5,543.24 .................... . ................... .................... 5,543.24

**Delegation Expenses**

**United Kingdom** ........................................................................................ Pound ... .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 3,225.00

**Michael Flynn**

**United States** ............................................................................................ Dollar ... .................... 3,221.93 .................... .. .................. .................... 3,221.93

**Estonia** ......................................................................................................... Euro ... 370.35 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 370.35

**United Kingdom** ........................................................................................ Pound ... 927.17 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 927.17

**Joseph C.法定**

**United States** ............................................................................................ Dollar ... 3,221.93 .................... .. .................. .................... 3,221.93

**Estonia** ......................................................................................................... Euro ... 370.35 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 370.35

**United Kingdom** ........................................................................................ Pound ... 927.17 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 927.17

**Delegation Expenses**

**United Kingdom** ........................................................................................ Pound ... 1,715.63 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 1,715.63

**Senator Ron Johnson**

**United States** ............................................................................................ Dollar ... 14,371.33 .................... . ................... .................... 14,371.33

**Serbia** ......................................................................................................... Dinar ... 241.00 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 241.00

**Ukraine** ..................................................................................................... Hryvnia ... 293.71 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 293.71

**Delegation Expenses**

**Serbia** ......................................................................................................... Dinar ... 143.00 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 143.00

**Ukraine** ..................................................................................................... Hryvnia ... 76.95 .................... .................... .................... ....... ............. .................... 76.95

**Total** ..................................................................................................... ... .................... 10,920.72 .................... 56,933.80 .................... 12,017.09 .................... 79,871.61

*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to by May 25, 1977.

**Senator Ron Johnson,**


### Delegation Expenses:

**U.S. Senate, Under Authority of Sec. 22, P.L. 95–384—22**

**Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, For Travel from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2019**

**Senator Lindsey Graham,**


### Delegation Expenses:

**U.S. Senate, Under Authority of Sec. 22, P.L. 95–384—22**

**Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, For Travel from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2019**

**Senator Lindsey Graham,**

### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S. C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEP. 30, 2019—Continued**

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<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
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<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S. C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019**

<table>
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*Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Oct. 7, 2019.*
## CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
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<th>Foreign currency</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
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* Accurate Delegation Expenses to be amended.

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## CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019**

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<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>Foreign currency</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency</td>
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<td>2,232.12</td>
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</table>
MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4842

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4842) to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

PREVENTING ANIMAL CRUELTY AND TORTURE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 724 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The bill (H.R. 724) to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 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. 724) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS ON WINNING THE 2019 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 407, which was 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. 407) congratulating the Washington Nationals on winning the 2019 Major League Baseball World Series.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 6th; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed 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 Rudofsky nomination under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:02 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

STEVEN HAHN, OF TEXAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE SCOTT GOTTLIEB.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 5, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID AUSTIN TAPP, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.
IN RECOGNITION OF THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS’ 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the sixtieth season of the Kansas City Chiefs football and the unrelenting dedication of their fans. As the U.S. Representative for Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District and a lifelong Chiefs fan, I am proud to honor Kansas City’s home team with this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Sixty years ago, the Chiefs were founded as the Dallas Texans by the widely revered Lamar Hunt. Recognized as one of the greatest sportsmen in American history, Hunt served as the guiding force behind the formation of both the American Football League and the Kansas City Chiefs franchise. Hunt’s determination and assemblance served as the catalyst that would bring his “impossible dream” to reality when his league took to the field for the ’60 season. Hunt continued to chase this dream as he moved his Dallas Texans team to Kansas City where the organization would be renamed as the Kansas City Chiefs.

Hunt’s vision for the organization was reaffirmed on June 8, 1966 when the AFL–NFL merger was announced by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, and the Kansas City Chiefs went on to participate in the inaugural Super Bowl against the Green Bay Packers on January 15, 1967. Only three years after that inaugural game, the Chiefs claimed Kansas City’s first major sports championship victory over the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV. Not only did Hunt’s passion help put Kansas City on the “big league” map, his influence and commitment helped pave the way for much of the modern growth of professional football.

In the late 1960s, Hunt played an integral role in the original development plans for Arrowhead Stadium, a facility which provided the Chiefs and their fans with one of the most coveted homefield advantages in all of sports. While other venues of a similar vintage have long since been termed obsolete or have been demolished, Arrowhead continues to serve as a point of pride for Chiefs and fans alike. In a true exemplification of the avid nature of Chiefs fans, Arrowhead recently broke the record for the loudest stadium on September 29, 2014. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, no sports fans in the world are louder than Kansas City Chiefs fans at Arrowhead Stadium, registering a record 142.2 decibels—louder than a jet taking off from an aircraft carrier.

Additionally, under Hunt’s stewardship, the Chiefs developed an intensely loyal fan base, not just in Mid-America, but across the country and the globe. Hunt took great satisfaction in the fact that the Chiefs boasted season-ticket holders from forty-eight of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada. He was also appreciative of the fact that Kansas City was selected to represent the NFL on the world stage in four American Bowl contests: Berlin, Germany (1990), Tokyo, Japan (1994, 1998), and Monterrey, Mexico (1996). Like jazz was to the music scene or Royals baseball to America’s favorite pastime, the Chiefs brought Kansas City to the forefront of the national consciousness.

In the decades to come, the organization would experience many highs and lows, including a promising ’71 season that featured a team record eleven Pro Bowl performers and ended dramatically in the longest game in NFL history, an AFC Divisional Playoff game played on Christmas day. It took 82:40 and double overtime to close out the game. This loss served as the Chiefs’ last playoff appearance for fifteen years. The years following brought trials and tribulations, but strengthened the team overall, earning them NFL playoff appearances in 1986, 1990 through 1995, 1997, 2003, 2006, 2010, 2013, and 2015 to 2017.

Today, Kansas City and “Chiefs Kingdom” continues a custom throughout the region that was forged by charity and the love of the game—Red Friday. Red Friday began in 1902 as an idea pitched to Lamar Hunt by the first President of the Red Coaters, the late Jim Shultz. The Red Coaters were founded in 1963, and members were obliged to sell tickets and received a red coat for selling so many. Made up of businessmen and women dedicated to the Chiefs and their community, the Red Coaters still share the same mission of giving today.

The first Red Friday featured the Red Coaters and Hunt himself on the streets of Kansas City selling newspapers with a special Chiefs edition to benefit local charities. After debuting on the west side of town, Red Friday moved north to the river, back to Westport, then to the Arrowhead parking lot. The Chiefs-themed newspapers turned into Red Friday magazines. Then those Red Friday magazines turned into Chiefs Kingdom flags sold to raise money for charity. The tradition continues to unite Kansas Citians and Chiefs fans across the country, transcending generations and bringing together a city of nearly 500,000 for a common cause to paint the town red.

Today, the Kansas City Chiefs continue to breathe life into the dream Lamar Hunt had when he founded the organization through its sustained ability to bring fans together in a true display of community and pride. The profound legacy the Kansas City Chiefs have paved builds upon and preserves a rich history that has given a way for many athletes and members of the organization to inspire, unify, and energize generations of football players and spectators alike.

Madam Speaker, please join with me as we commemorate the sixtieth anniversary season of the Kansas City Chiefs.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES M. HOGAN
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and service of Charles M. “Charlie” Hogan of Park City, Kentucky.

Mr. Hogan began his service in the U.S. Army and then proudly served in the U.S. Air Force for over twenty years. Mr. Hogan received an Air Force Commendation for his brave service in Vietnam. A champion for his fellow veterans, Mr. Hogan was awarded the Barren County Patriot Award in 2004. He spearheaded the effort to a veterans’ memorial wall in Park City and made sure to invite me to attend the Veterans Day celebration my first year in Congress. He was also an active member of the Masonic Order, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, the Barren River Area Development District, and Park City United Methodist Church.

I join with Mr. Hogan’s family and the Barren County community in remembering the life of an American patriot.

SENIOR PASTOR BOB COUNTS RETIRES

HON. PAUL COOK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, Senior Pastor Counts follows in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, who served as pastors for their respective congregations. Additionally, three of his brothers, two of his sons, and his nephew are all pastors while his sister is married to a pastor. He became a minister in 1964 and is a graduate of Bible Baptist College in Springfield, Missouri.

Senior Pastor Counts has served communities across the country as a pastor at Stillwell Bible Baptist in Clarksville, Arkansas, Temple Baptist in Springfield, Arkansas, and Valley Baptist in Rowland Heights, California. For the past 23 years, he has served my constituents as senior pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Victorville. His 55 years of dedicated service will end in distinction, as he becomes the fourth retired pastor among the church’s 1,200 members.

Though Senior Pastor Bob Counts is retiring, his work will continue to be felt through his life-long service and dedication to his faith. He will be passing the reigns of senior pastor to his son, Joel Counts. Over the course of his career he has touched innumerable lives, and his passion, caring, and selflessness will truly be missed as he begins a well-deserved retirement.
HONORING THE LIFE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN WILLIE J. ADAMS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran Willie J. Adams and his tireless dedication to community and country.

Willie served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. An original Montford Point Marine, Willie was one of 20,000 African American men who helped defeat Hitler and desegregate the Marines. He was honorably discharged in 1946 but he lived by the motto, “Once a Marine, always a Marine,” and was a committed lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8852.

Willie was a model of honor and duty to his community when he returned home. As a Rapids Parish school bus driver, he mentored countless students and was a father figure to many. Willie was a dedicated Christian who served both in Church and at large in the community. He often participated in senior citizen events throughout the area, and in his free time, could be found outdoors fishing or hunting. The anchor of his family, he was married for over 60 years to his wife Josephine Adams, with whom he raised two daughters.

While spending his last days at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Willie made sure that every member of the VFW was able to visit and play games. In recognition of his accomplishments and character, Willie was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 9, 2019.

For his exemplary life of service, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Willie J. Adams. His decades of commitment and contributions to his community and country are worthy of admiration, and his memory will live on through the countless lives he impacted. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF RICHMOND FOR REDUCING BARRIERS TO VOTING IN VIRGINIA’S 2019 ELECTIONS

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the City of Richmond for its efforts to remove barriers to voter participation in Virginia’s 2019 elections. Mayor Levar Stoney and his administration are partnering with the Greater Richmond Transit Corporation (GRTC) for the second year in a row to provide free rides to the polls for Richmond residents on Election Day. Additionally, the City of Richmond is giving its employees the day off on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Both measures will address potential impediments and will help encourage participation in both state and local elections.

Access to transportation has historically been an obstacle for underserved and marginalized communities to exercise their rights on Election Day. To address these concerns, GRTC will provide free transportation to nearly every polling location in the City of Richmond. In doing so, more individuals will be able to access polling stations, enabling many more Richmond residents to vote.

The ability to take time off from work has also been a barrier to the ballot box. To help tackle this issue, the City of Richmond will close its offices on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 to make it easier for city employees to vote.

Since my time in the Virginia General Assembly, I have fought for voters’ rights: the right to vote is sacred and should be protected. That is why I introduced the Election Day Holiday Act, which would make Election Day a federal holiday. At a time when our elections are under attack from outside and within our country, it is more important than ever that we remove barriers to the ballot box.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Stoney, the Stoney administration, and GRTC for improving access and removing barriers to voting for Richmond residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF RIPPLE GLASS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the tenth anniversary of Ripple Glass. For a decade, Ripple Glass has led the way in efficient glass recycling and served as champions in the implementation of their streamlined framework in cities throughout the Midwest. I am proud to have such an innovative and environmentally conscious company in Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District.

Upon discovering that Kansas Citians threw away nearly 750 million pounds of perfectly good glass, including 10 million empty bottles from Kansas City’s very own Boulevard Brewing Company, the individuals at Boulevard Brewing realized that something must be done to prevent glass from making its way to the landfill. Area businesses use nearly 200 million pounds of recycled glass every year, but local recycling was not occurring due to a lack of nearby facilities to process intake. Tired of contributing to a mounting problem, the individuals at Boulevard Brewing, with the support of local companies and community organizations, sought a solution and founded Ripple Glass in 2009.

Ripple established a collection system and state-of-the-art processing plant that operated efficiently. The company began by placing its trademark purple collection bins in sixty locations across the Kansas City metropolitan area, where glass would be collected before being transported to the processing plant to be cleaned, dried, sized, sorted, and screened. This processing plant provides furnace-ready cullet-crushed, recycled glass to local companies in the region. Ripple has also converted recycled cullet into fiberglass insulation, a process saves enormous amounts of energy and dramatically lowers emissions. Ripple Glass also exports recycled amber glass to be turned back into glass bottles, including those used by Boulevard Brewing.

The prominent purple Ripple Glass bins can be found across Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The glass collected from these bins all comes back to the Kansas City facility for processing, helping over eighty other communities keep their landsfills—truly exemplifying the ‘ripple effect’.

Moreover, Ripple Glass has recently launched a collection service for bars, restaurants, and other commercial institutions, allowing them to further pursue their mission to provide a comprehensive glass recycling system in Kansas City and beyond. By tapping into the local marketplace, Ripple Glass has found a way to close the loop, protect the environment, support area businesses, and even make homes more energy efficient. Prior to Ripple Glass operations in Kansas City, approximately 80,000 tons of container glass were consumed each year with only five percent being recycled. Now, through Ripple Glass’ initiatives, nearly twenty percent of the community’s glass is recycled and almost 200,000 tons of glass is diverted out of landfills across the region.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ripple Glass for a decade of service to the greater Kansas City area and beyond. Let us join in recognizing the company’s unwavering commitment to sustainability and ensuring glass recycling is available to communities across the Midwest.

IN HONOR OF JOE PIERUCCI UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF FOSTER CITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joe Pierucci upon his retirement as Chief of Police for Foster City. Chief Pierucci will be leaving after 33 years in law enforcement, including the last 11 years in Foster City.

Chief Pierucci grew up in Foster City and began his career in nearby San Mateo in 1986. In San Mateo, he worked as a detective, field training officer, and school resource officer before moving up to Patrol Sergeant. He then assumed responsibility for several of San Mateo’s important community policing activities including the highly successful San Mateo Police Athletics League, neighborhood watch and crime prevention programs.

In 2009, Joe Pierucci returned to his hometown of Foster City when he became a lieutenant and began supervising patrol teams. He’s a warm, amiable person and his personality fit well with a community in which residents embrace their law enforcement officers and enjoy an outdoor quality of life that is organized around community events, community sport leagues, the water and parks. Into this mix came Joe Pierucci with gusto and a smile as wide as a city lagoon.

He quickly rose to the rank of Captain and eventually managed field operations and administrative functions. He served as President of the San Mateo County Law Enforcement Commanders Association and continued his...
training in law enforcement management. In 2016, thanks in part he noted to great mentoring in both San Mateo and Foster City, he was elevated to become Chief of Police.

Chief Pierucci is a member of the Foster City Lions Club and volunteered with the city’s Little League and Youth Softball Association. His sons copied his father’s career of service as a Blackhawk Helicopter Crew-Chief. His daughter, Tori, is finishing her criminal justice degree and hopes to be the 3rd generation of Pierucci’s serving in local law enforcement. The Chief is a newwoved and his wife, Angela, will now have much more time with Joe. It’s unlikely that such an energetic guy will find a home on a couch, and we wish this couple many years of great travels and new adventures.

As the Chief notes, he began his life in Foster City as a resident when the area previously known as Brewer Island was largely sand and sea shells. Today, the city is home to such powerhouse companies as Gilead Sciences, Visa International and others that, although less well known, are building tomorrow’s economy every day that they open their doors. Tens of thousands of residents, public servants, and thoughtful visitors have made Foster City the amazing community that it is.

We wish Joe Pierucci well in the years ahead and know that his wise counsel will be missed but never forgotten by those he served and called friends throughout his many years on the streets of Foster City. Today is his birthday, and rarely before has it held so much meaning. He is not aging out, but he is moving on. We know him as the Chief of Police, the chief mayor of those who walk into a room and the chief cheerleader for his community and its remarkable spirit by the bay. I thank Joe. We advised him not to emulate the children of Foster City by taking up skateboarding in the years ahead. However, if we spot him windsurfing we will all point and say, “There goes Joe Pierucci and he’s in the right place because the wind is at his back. Godspeed, Joe.”

RECOGNIZING DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Lawrence Feldman. A Miami-Dade County School Board Member, Dr. Feldman has been awarded the Green Garner Award. His career of service as a Miami-Dade County Public School is unrivaled.

Dr. Feldman has served Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 46 years, as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and region director. He has served on the School Board of Miami-Dade County Public Schools for over ten years, and he recently finished his tenure as the Board’s Chair. His experience working with culturally and economically diverse communities throughout Miami-Dade County is unrivaled.

Throughout his career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Dr. Feldman has consistently prioritized the well-being of students. He has been involved in numerous school safety initiatives, including the implementation of Sandy Hook Promise’s “See Something, Say Something” and “Start with Helio” gun violence prevention programs. He has promoted awareness of brain and head injuries amongst student athletes, and led the creation of stronger programs to identify and help victims of bullying in their early years at schools.

Dr. Feldman is the recipient of numerous awards for his educational work and public service, including the Minority Chamber of Commerce Public Official of the Year Award. He has been selected as Keynote Speaker for multiple education organizations and conferences, and has led trainings and presentations across the country.

I’m proud to know Larry as a great friend and extraordinary educational leader. He has been an exemplary public servant throughout his career, and I’m thrilled that he has been recognized for the Green Garner Award.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL BARTON WILSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Michael Barton Wilson of Glasgow, Kentucky.

Mr. Wilson served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was part of the initial crew on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. During his four tours of duty in the Navy, Mr. Wilson was also stationed at Midway Island, and he later spearheaded a reunion of Midway Island residents from across the country in his retirement.

Mr. Wilson also served as the Commander of DAV Chapter 20 in Barren County, Kentucky, and he often helped his fellow veterans get the care they deserved.

I join with Mr. Wilson’s family and the Barren County community in remembering his selfless dedication to serving his country, his fellow veterans, and anyone else in need.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS WILSON, DEARBORN’S 2019 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Wilson on being named Dearborn’s 2019 Veteran of the Year. His contributions to his community and the nation are worthy of commendation.

Mr. Wilson enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 1970. After completing basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky and Advanced Individual Training at the Signal Corps School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, Mr. Wilson was sent to Fort Huachuca in Arizona for his first active duty assignment in strategic army communications. In 1972, Mr. Wilson was selected for a Military Assistance Advisory Group assignment in Brussels, Holland, where he was assigned to Armed Forces Central NATO during the Cold War. After leaving the army in 1974, Mr. Wilson returned home and received his technical school education from RETS Electronic Schools in 1976. Upon graduation, Mr. Wilson began his career as a product engineer and started a family with his wife, Judy.

The Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council Veteran of the Year award is given to an exemplary veteran who dutifully serves the Dearborn community with honor, leadership, compassion, and commitment—all of which describe Mr. Wilson. For the past forty years, Mr. Wilson has become a pillar of the Dearborn community, striving to improve the lives of all its members. Since joining American Legion Post #364 in Dearborn, Mr. Wilson has devoted countless hours to serving the community’s veterans and advocating for their causes. His leadership has been recognized amongst his peers, as Mr. Wilson has previously served as senior vice commander and commander at American Veterans Post 4 and commander for Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council. Mr. Wilson’s commitment to American Legion has been paramount to the veterans of our community, and his dedicated work has made meaningful contributions to Dearborn as a whole.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Thomas Wilson, Dearborn’s 2019 Veteran of the Year. His decades of commitment to Dearborn—especially its veterans—has made a real difference in our community. We thank him for his service in the U.S. Army and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Since its founding, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has provided outstanding spiritual guidance and outreach to the community.

Organized in 1869, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was one of the first churches established in Asbury Park, initially gathering in a tent for services and later at a site deeded to the church by James A. Bradley, founder of Asbury Park. In 1949, the church found its permanent home on Cookman Avenue.

Throughout its long history, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has been graced with pastoral leadership committed to cultivating a welcoming place of the community to learn, pray and connect with others. Its pastors have also endeavored to ensure a viable future for the church, maintaining and updating the church building with renovations, including adaptations for people with special needs, church members and air conditioning. Also led by Rev. Dr. Danielle L. Hunter, the church’s first female pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has expanded its spiritual outreach, offering prayer meetings, an intercessory prayer line and added worship services.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church also dedicates itself to social action and community service. Through its food pantry and
clothing closet, lunch program, tutoring and many other services of its ministries, the church carries on the mission of faith, uplifting all those who seek solace and assistance.

Madam Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church continues to serve as a place of worship and inspiration and its dedicated service to its congregants and the greater Asbury Park community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND JOE COLAIZZI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Joseph Colaizzi's thirty-five years of dedicated service to the Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM). As the U.S. Representative for Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, it brings me great joy to honor a lifelong community advocate and the indelible mark he has left on the community.

Rev. Joe Colaizzi was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He later moved to Ohio where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Cincinnati before joining the production team for the timeless series that captivated the hearts of so many—Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. Rev. Colaizzi went on to become the Director of Instructional Television at Carnegie Mellon University. While at Carnegie Mellon, Rev. Colaizzi had a life-changing encounter with his faith. Eventually, Rev. Colaizzi found shelter at Lamb's Manhattan Church of the Nazarene, where he subsequently served the homeless for seven years as a ministry team member and eventually Associate Pastor. It was also at Lamb's Manhattan Church of the Nazarene where Rev. Colaizzi met and married his loving wife Marilyn.

In 1983, the Colaizzi family moved to Kansas City and planted roots, allowing Joseph to pursue his Master of Divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary while volunteering at the Kansas City Rescue Mission. The seeds Reverend Colaizzi planted for his life began to flourish as he assumed his role as the Executive Director of Kansas City Rescue Mission. For Rev. Colaizzi, success has always been measured by the joy brought to him by selflessly serving others and working tirelessly to build a more equitable, inclusive, and unified community for all.

KCRM was established in 1950 with a mission to serve people in need, opening their doors to the poor, homeless, hungry, and hurting. Focused on serving marginalized communities with dignity, KCRM offers individuals a multitude of services, including case management, recovery programs, job and life skills through educational services, and the opportunity to participate in their social enterprise program. Regardless of an individual's current situation, KCRM empowers clients to overcome their obstacles in their life and gives them hope for a brighter future and the tools to achieve it.

Under Rev. Colaizzi's stewardship, Kansas City Rescue Mission has grown from one employee to sixty, increasing the organization's capacity to broaden their reach and presence in the community. The Kansas City Rescue Mission Men's Center, which once provided only emergency shelter, meals, and chapel services for thirty homeless men a day, now serves up to 140 men daily and provides additional services, including residential addiction recovery, health care, and counseling, just to name a few.

Rev. Colaizzi's passion to serve others is further evidenced by his initiation of the Reaching Up, Moving Forward campaign in 2011 that funded the establishment of the Kansas City Rescue Mission Women's Center. This twenty-bed facility opened July 15, 2013 and provides residential recovery, counseling, therapy, and case management services for single, homeless women, many with co-occurring disorders.

To this day, Reverend Joseph Colaizzi remains an active, integral member of the community and consistently directs his efforts towards the betterment of people's lives in and around Kansas City. Rev. Colaizzi's leadership and advocacy is unparalleled and inspiring.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring thirty-five years of dedicated service to the community by Reverend Joseph Colaizzi through his ministry and direction at the Kansas City Rescue Mission. Let us honor the profound legacy of Rev. Colaizzi and the impact he has made through his benevolent spirit and passion to serve.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6365–S6410

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2770–2786, S. Res. 406–407, and S. Con. Res. 29.

Measures Reported:

S. 995, to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1130, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1399, to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1608, to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1657, to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2511, to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court Police with the authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2619, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2629, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2740, 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.

Measures Passed:

Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 724, to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and the bill was then passed.


Hunsaker Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 75 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 345), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the votes on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Jennifer Philpott Wilson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, occur at 12 noon, on Wednesday, November 6, 2019; that the vote on confirmation of the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, occur at 4 p.m., on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, and that following disposition of the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit; and that if cloture is invoked on the nominations of Lee Philip Rudofsky, Jennifer Philpott Wilson, and William Joseph Nardini, the votes on confirmation of the nominations occur at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader,
consultation with the Democratic Leader, on Thursday, November 7, 2019.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:
By 85 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. EX. 344), David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. Pages S6366–74, S6374–84
During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:
By 83 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. EX. 343), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Pages S6374–75

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:
Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. Page S6410

Measures Read the First Time: Pages S6391, S6410
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6392–94
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6394–96
Additional Statements: Pages S6389–91
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S6396–97

Privileges of the Floor: Page S6397

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—345) Pages S6374–75, S6384

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S6410.)

Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)

NASA’S WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation and Space concluded a hearing to examine building NASA’s workforce of the future, focusing on STEM engagement for a 21st century education, after receiving testimony from Linda T. Elkins-Tanton, Arizona State University Interplanetary Initiative, Tempe; Jeffrey Manber, Nanoracks LLC, Webster, Texas; J.R. Gladden, University of Mississippi, Oxford; and Shella Rivano Condino, Oakton High School, Vienna, Virginia.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Katherine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

THREATS TO THE HOMELAND
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine threats to the homeland, after receiving testimony from David J. Glawe, Under Secretary of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence and Analysis; Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Russell Travers, Acting Director, National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

DATA EXPOSURE
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism concluded a hearing to examine how corporations and Big Tech leave our data exposed to criminals, China, and other bad actors, after receiving testimony from Tom Burt, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington; and William A. Carter, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Kara Frederick, Center for a New American Security, and Klon Kitchen, The Heritage Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 4978–4989; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 679 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

- H.R. 4355, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–268);
- H.R. 4372, to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–269); and
- H.R. 4373, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–269);

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Demings to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

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

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Hill, wherein she resigned as Representative for the Twenty-Fifth Congressional District of California, effective on November 3, 2019.

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from California, Ms. Hill, the whole number of the House is 431.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H8728.

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

Adjournment: The House met at 8 a.m. and adjourned at 8:04 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1105)

S. 1196, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”. Signed on October 31, 2019. (Public Law 116–66)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to markup S. 2765, to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process, 2:30 p.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy, to hold hearings to examine S. 876, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, S. 1890, to provide for grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities, S. 2425, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the CHP Technical Assistance Partnership Program, S. 2508, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a council to conduct a survey and analysis of the employment figures and demographics in the energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicle sectors of the United States, S. 2556, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide energy cybersecurity investment incentives, to establish a grant and technical assistance program for cybersecurity investments, S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, S. 2660, to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration, S. 2668, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an integrated energy systems research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies, S. 2688, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, S. 2702, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an integrated energy systems research, development, and demonstration, and S. 2714, to amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the ARPA–E program, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: business meeting to markup S. 2715, to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration, 3:15 p.m., SD–338.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to markup S. 2728, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the justice system for victims of terrorism, 3:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to markup S. 2765, to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process, 2:30 p.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy, to hold hearings to examine S. 876, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, S. 1890, to provide for grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities, S. 2425, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the CHP Technical Assistance Partnership Program, S. 2508, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a council to conduct a survey and analysis of the employment figures and demographics in the energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicle sectors of the United States, S. 2556, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide energy cybersecurity investment incentives, to establish a grant and technical assistance program for cybersecurity investments, S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, S. 2660, to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration, S. 2668, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an integrated energy systems research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies, S. 2688, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, S. 2702, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an integrated energy systems research, development, and demonstration, and S. 2714, to amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the ARPA–E program, 10 a.m., SD–366.
Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine S. 2662, to amend sections 111, 169, and 171 of the Clean Air Act to clarify when a physical change in, or change in the method of operation of, a stationary source constitutes a modification or construction, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 2779, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, S. 2162, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to annually hire at least 600 new Border Patrol agents, to report quarterly to Congress on the status of the Border Patrol workforce, and to conduct a comprehensive staffing analysis, S. 2769, to eliminate or modify certain Federal agency reporting requirements, S. 1363, to authorize an AI Center of Excellence within the General Services Administration, S. 2618, to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government, S. 2560, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, S. 2353, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, S. 2749, to provide requirements for the .gov domain, S. 2513, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, S. 565, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, S. 2750, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Operation Stonegarden grant program, S. 2712, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the “Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building”, H.R. 1589, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, H.R. 2066, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program in the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 495, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement, H.R. 135, to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government, H.R. 887, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the “Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building”, H.R. 1252, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office”, H.R. 1253, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the “Ritchie Valens Post Office Building”, H.R. 1526, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the “Eva G. Hewitt Post Office”, H.R. 1844, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the “Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building”, H.R. 1972, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the “Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building”, H.R. 2151, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office”, H.R. 2325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the “65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building”, H.R. 3144, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the “Jose Ramos Post Office Building”, H.R. 3314, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the “Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”, and the nominations of Joshua A. Deahl, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Deborah J. Israel, and Andrea L. Hertzfeld, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Robert Anthony Dixon, to be United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Department of Justice, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider H.R. 317, to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the 477 program, focusing on reducing red tape while promoting employment and training opportunities in Indian country, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Grant C. Jaquith, of New York, and Scott J. Laurer, of Virginia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 9:30 a.m., SR–418.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine veteran scams, focusing on protecting those who protected us, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on Putin’s shadow warriors, focusing on
mercenaries, security contracting, and the way ahead, 10 a.m., 2359, Rayburn Building.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD
Week of November 6 through November 8, 2019

Senate Chamber

On Wednesday, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Lee Philip Rudofsky, and Jennifer Philpott Wilson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, at 12 noon. Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, at 4 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: November 7, to hold hearings to examine implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill, focusing on rural development and energy programs, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: November 7, to hold hearings to examine bipartisan bills to promote affordable housing access and safety, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: November 6, business meeting to markup S. 2765, to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process, 2:30 p.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: November 6, Subcommittee on Energy, to hold hearings to examine S. 876, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, S. 1890, to provide for grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities, S. 2425, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the CHP Technical Assistance Partnership Program, S. 2508, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a council to conduct a survey and analysis of the employment figures and demographics in the energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicle sectors of the United States, S. 2556, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide energy cybersecurity investment incentives, to establish a grant and technical assistance program for cybersecurity investments, S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and develop-

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November 7, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine federal revenues derived from energy development on Federal and Indian lands as well as Federal offshore areas and programs that share those revenues with state, local, and tribal governments, including S. 2418, to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to modify a definition and the disposition and authorized uses of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues under that Act and to exempt State and county payments under that Act from sequestration, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, and S. 2666, to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: November 6, to hold hearings to examine S. 2662, to amend sections 111, 169, and 171 of the Clean Air Act to clarify when a physical change in, or change in the method of operation of, a stationary source constitutes a modification or construction, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: November 7, to receive a closed briefing on Afghanistan, focusing on the way ahead, 11 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: November 6, business meeting to consider S. 2779, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, S. 2162, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to annually hire at least 600 new Border Patrol agents, to report quarterly to Congress on the status of the Border Patrol workforce, and to conduct a comprehensive staffing analysis, S. 2769, to eliminate or modify certain Federal agency reporting requirements, S. 1363, to authorize an AI Center of Excellence within the General Services Administration, S. 2618, to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government, S. 2560, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, S. 2353, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, S. 2749, to provide requirements for the .gov domain, S. 2513, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, S. 565, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, S. 2750, to amend the Homeland Security Act
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Committee on Indian Affairs: November 6, business meeting to consider H.R. 317, to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the 477 program, focusing on reducing red tape while promoting employment and training opportunities in Indian country, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: November 6, to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015, 10 a.m., SD–226.

November 7, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Barbara Lagoa and Robert J. Luck, both of Florida, both to be a 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, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: November 7, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Library of Congress modernization, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: November 6, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Grant C. Jaquith, of New York, and Scott J. Lauer, of Virginia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 9:30 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: November 7, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: November 6, to hold hearings to examine veteran scams, focusing on protecting those who protected us, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: November 6, to receive a briefing on Putin’s shadow warriors, focusing on mercenaries, security contracting, and the way ahead, 10 a.m., 2359, Rayburn Building.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Wednesday, November 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Lee Philip Rudofsky, and Jennifer Philpott Wilson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, at 12 noon. Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, at 4 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1 p.m., Friday, November 8

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E1397, E1398, E1400
Cook, Paul, Calif., E1397

Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E1399
Guthrie, Brett, Ky., E1397, E1399
McEachin, A. Donald, Va., E1398
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E1399
Shalala, Donna E., Fla., E1399
Speier, Jackie, Calif., E1398
Torres, Norma J., Calif., E1398

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