The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER
The President pro tempore. The prayer will be given by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE. He will lead us in prayer.

Mr. INHOFE. Let us pray.
Almighty God, Creator of all, as we gather here today, we are grateful for the servicemembers who are deployed in the defense of our great Nation under God. We ask for Your comfort for the families who continue their duties at home with the courage to maintain the homefront in the absence of their loved ones.

Protect our service men and women with the shield of Your strength as they discharge their sacred mission, and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care.

Assist with Your spirit of counsel and fortitude for the President and other government leaders of these United States. May they always seek the ways of righteousness, justice, and mercy. Grant that they may be enabled by Your powerful protection to lead our country with honesty and integrity.

Lord, we know all too well our weak and infaillible human nature, and we recognize that the work which lies before us is demanding and complex. Yet, O God, I thank You for calling us to this difficult and rewarding work.

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 (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from Iowa.
Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

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

VETERANS DAY
Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this year on Veterans Day, I will join all Americans in honoring those who have served in our Armed Forces. As a nation, we owe those who have served a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made to protect our country, our way of life, and the principles of liberty and natural rights. Too often, we forget to thank the families who are left behind while they are in service. They deserve our consideration as well.

The least we can do in return is work to ensure that all veterans have the healthcare and benefits they have earned. We owe it to veterans to ensure that they are never forsaken, nor forgotten.

I yield the floor.

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

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will continue to confirm President Trump's well-qualified judicial nominees. This President and this Senate have prioritized confirming impressive men and women to these lifetime appointments—talented individuals who believe in the quaint notion that the job of a judge is to apply our Nation's laws and Constitution as they were actually written, not as they might wish they were written.

At the close of business today, it so happens, one in every four judges on the Federal courts of appeals will have been nominated by President Trump and confirmed by us here in the Senate.

There is nothing about this that ought to be viewed as a partisan accomplishment or an accomplishment only for this President or only for one side. That is the wrong way to look at it. Every American should be proud of this. Citizens deserve a judiciary of fairminded men and women who don't confuse their jobs with the job of a legislator. Every Member of this body should be proud to confirm Federal judges who understand that our job is to make the laws, and their job is to apply them fairly.
If the concept of faithful judges fulfilling their proper role strikes anyone as a partisan development or a threat to their political agenda, I would suggest it is their agenda that needs modifying and not the judicial branch that our Founders intended.

COAL INDUSTRY
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter of the untold stories of the Obama administration was the dramatic geographic inequality that deepened on the Democrats’ watch.

From 2010 to 2016, the Nation’s largest mining areas captured only 75 percent of the new jobs and 90 percent of the population growth. Big cities did OK, but unfair and regressive policies, like the War on Coal, left many other communities—smaller cities, small towns, and rural areas—literally in the dust.

Homegrown American energy, including coal, has supported entire communities in Kentucky and throughout the country for generations, but even before he took office, President Obama declared a war on coal. Here is what he said: “If somebody wants to build a coal-fired power plant, they can; it is just that it will bankrupt them.”

Of course, that approach didn’t only hurt American businesses, it hurt American workers. In 2009, 23,000 Kentuckians made their living mining coal. By the end of 2016, that number had dropped to barely more than 6,500. It went from 23,000 to 6,500 during the Obama years. Nearly three-quarters of the State’s coal jobs were gone in the span of one Presidency.

So since the earliest days of the Trump administration, we have prioritized ending the War on Coal and trying to repair the damage. We have repealed hostile regulations and created tailwinds instead of headwinds for America’s energy dominance. But 8 years of damage is not easy to unwind. Many coal communities are still suffering. There are more mine closures and more bankruptcies. Workers’ paychecks and retirees’ pensions are thrown into uncertainty. So our work continues.

A few years back, I worked to secure permanent health benefits for thousands of retirees. Yesterday, a bipartisan group here in the Senate, led by Senators CAPITO, MANCHIN, and me, took another step toward addressing the emergency of underfunded pensions for thousands of miners, retirees, and their families. We introduced new legislation to expand that healthcare fix to include 13,000 more miners and protect the pensions of nearly 92,000 miners into the future.

Earlier this week, I personally raised the subject with President Trump. We discussed the importance of working toward a solution for these retirees.

Just yesterday, I met with Kentucky miners here in the Capitol to hear their concerns and discuss a potential path forward.

I have spent my entire career in the Senate fighting for all Kentuckians. I have worked to protect coal communities from bad ideas and to promote their future, and I will keep working with the Trump administration and my colleagues on both sides to support our mining families.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Mr. McCONNELL. Now on another matter, Mr. President, earlier this week, the Securities and Exchange Commission took a significant step into the 21st century. When public companies put business decisions up for a vote by their shareholders, it stands to reason that large asset managers who own many shares on behalf of their clients have enormous power to determine the outcome. Since these in-cases, the proxy advisory firms have taken a leading role in the bandwidth to study every single company in great detail, many rely heavily on outside advisory firms.

In principle, there is nothing wrong with investors getting advice, but in practice, things get pretty interesting. This cottage industry of proxy advisory firms is extremely concentrated in a very few hands. I believe the two largest firms have something like 97 percent market share between them, and their advice is often taken uncritically. One analysis of major asset managers found that 95 percent of their voting followed one advisory firm’s recommendation.

So we have this business concentration of voices wielding enormous power over American business, and questions have arisen about whether they really exercise that power to serve the best financial interests of the investors. In some cases, the proxy advisors seem less interested in the particular interests of the particular company and more interested in advancing a preconceived ideological agenda. In other words, these firms are accused of leveraging their incredible influence to force corporations to conform to their own vision of social justice.

That is why, as the Chairman of the SEC explained, he receives letters from ordinary American investors expressing “concern that their financial investments, including their retirement funds, were being steered by third parties to promote individual agendas, rather than to further their [own] primary goals” of saving for retirement and leaving something behind for their kids and grandchildren.

These proxy advisors are regulated by the SEC, and as it happens, some parts of these rules had not been updated since 1954. So this week the SEC has updated these Eisenhower-era guidelines for the 21st century. The new rules will enable more transparency and accountability. They will help ensure that these powerful voices have meaningful skin in the game and are not simply marching for a convenient vehicle to advance their preconceived interests.

I applaud the step forward by Chairman Clayton and the SEC.

VETERANS DAY
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on the final matter, on Monday, our Nation will observe Veterans Day. Some will gather here in our Nation’s Capital at the proud monuments that pay enduring tribute to the service and sacrifice of generations of brave servicemen. Many more will mark the day in ceremonies in small towns and cities across our country. And, of course, many Americans will have veterans to thank firsthand in their own families and neighborhoods.

My own father’s Army service took him to the heart of the battle for Europe in 1945. His company sustained heavy losses. When he returned home, he traded his uniform for a briefcase and went back to work in our community.

Perhaps the only thing more remarkable than the heroic service that generations of veterans have offered at home and overseas is the fact that they come home and keep right on serving in new ways—as fathers and mothers, as skilled workers, as entrepreneurs, or as educators, and in every case, as a custodian of a unique part of our Nation’s collective memory.

It is a cliche, but it is a cliche for good reason: the land of the free because of the brave.

The Senate will not be in session on Monday. As we honor Veterans Day, but I hope that each of our Members will be remembering and giving thanks for all veterans and for those brave men and women serving today. Their efforts are the reason why this Chamber exists, why it still stands, and why American self-government and American freedom endure.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The SENATE will not be in session on Monday, as we honor Veterans Day. The Senate will not be in session on Monday, as we honor Veterans Day, but I hope that each of our Members will be remembering and giving thanks for all veterans and for those brave men and women serving today. Their efforts are the reason why this Chamber exists, why it still stands, and why American self-government and American freedom endure.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The SENATE will not be in session on Monday, as we honor Veterans Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The SENATE will not be in session on Monday, as we honor Veterans Day. The Senate will not be in session on Monday, as we honor Veterans Day.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The SENATE will not be in session on Monday, as we honor Veterans Day.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to 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.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Senate Democrats have continued to work with our Republican colleagues this year on a fully bipartisan process. It got off to a great start when the four congressional leaders reached a budget deal over the summer, but it quickly went awry.

Senate Republicans departed from the bipartisan process by unilaterally proposing their own allocations to the various agencies. This was not part of the agreement. This was not in the spirit of the ‘‘pay-for’’ plan that the 2011 budget deal was supposed to be. It was always, when we agreed, that we would work out the 302(b) allocations. Instead, the Republicans went ahead, unilaterally, and they proposed moving $12 billion—$12 billion—from critical health and military families to pay for the President’s border wall, and that was way out of bounds.

The Republican leader has accused Democrats, myself included, of breaking our budget deal by not going along with these very partisan bills. He knows—and every Member of this Chamber, Democrat and Republican, knows well—that Democrats are not going to support a unilateral move by the Republicans to take $12 billion away from military families, education, opioids, and NIH and put it into the President’s border wall, and that was way out of bounds.

The whole concept started with the Continental Congress, even before the Constitutional Convention. It got off to a good start within a fully bipartisan process because it was closed to at least as we have heard from the facts at the facts—whether or not it lived up to it.

The senior Assistant Legislative Clerk, Menashi, in a few minutes—maybe as early as this evening—will reconfirm the Senate’s support for the whistleblower’s protection laws—laws that have been on the books for a very long time.

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The junior Senator from Kentucky, Mr. President, on the whistleblower, yesterday, the House Intelligence Committee announced the schedule for its first week of public hearings in the House. The purpose, including testimony from the current and former top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine. These public hearings are a reminder that the whistleblower’s account has already been corroborated many times over by officials with firsthand knowledge of the situation.

Yet there remains a searing focus by the President and one Member of this Chamber on the whistleblower. Even though his or her account has been verified by other sources, the White House and, most particularly, the junior Senator from Kentucky, seem committed to discrediting the whistleblower, disclosing the whistleblower’s identity, and turning the right-wing media machine on this person—and they can be vicious.

The junior Senator from Kentucky went so far as to block a simple resolution from my friend the Senator from Hawaii, Mazie Hirono, that would have condemned the President’s dangerous move for the whistleblower, disclosing the whistleblower’s identity, and turning the right-wing media machine on this person—and they can be vicious.

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Steven Menashi of New York. His nomination should not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Menashi has a very troubling record on race, women's equality, LGBTQ rights, and the rights of immigrants. His conduct before the Judiciary Committee was insulting, his attempt for the Senate reprehensible, and his refusal to be forthcoming about his record is outright disqualifying.

But if members of the committee need evidence of Democrats' obduracy against Menashi's nomination, they should read this morning's New York Times. The headline reads “Appeals Court Nominee Shaped DeVos's Illegal Loan Forgiveness Effort.” The Times reports that during Mr. Menashi's tenure working with Secretary DeVos at the Department of Education, he played a leading role in designing an illegal effort to deny debt relief to thousands of students swindled by for-profits.

Let me repeat. Mr. Menashi concocted a plan to illegally use the private Social Security data of defrauded student borrowers to deny them debt forgiveness after they were preyed upon by for-profit schools. A Federal judge ruled that these efforts violated privacy laws.

This is someone the President wants us to make an appellate court judge? A judge is supposed to uphold the law, interpret the law, and have a reverence for the Constitution. Who allows someone to break the law, as Mr. Menashi did.

Mr. Menashi's nomination is an embarrassment to this country. It is an insult to millions of hard-working young Americans saddled with student debt. It is an insult to women and LGBTQ Americans, to African Americans and immigrants, and to everyone who believes in the rule of law.

If anyone has not earned the privilege of a lifetime appointment to the bench, it is Mr. Menashi. I urge every Member of the Judiciary Committee to vote against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDENT. The majority whip.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Tuesday morning, I visited with Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. We talked about the military's needs and national security priorities, and we talked about the fact that more than a month into the new fiscal year, Congress still hasn't funded the military for fiscal year 2020. We shouldn't have needed to talk about that. We should have passed the Defense appropriations bill for 2020 weeks ago, but Democrats won't let us.

Last week, Democrats blocked consideration of the 2020 Defense appropriations bill for the second time. Apparently they have every intention of continuing to block military funding. This is politics at its worst. And make no mistake—this is politics. A couple of months ago, Democrats and Republicans got together and agreed on defense and nondefense funding levels for 2020 and 2021. The idea was to pave the way for the passage of appropriations bills in a timely fashion. It seemed for a moment that despite Democrats' fixation on partisan politics and impeachment, we could actually go about funding the government and the military in a serious and thoughtful way. But apparently that was too much to ask of the Senate Democrats. Senate Democrats are currently running from the agreement, attempting to derail the defense funding bill with poison pills that would continue to block military funding from ever being enacted into law.

Funding our military should be the first priority of every Member of Congress. The safety of our country depends on the strength of our military. If we don't get national security right, the rest is conversation. Getting national security right means making sure our military is adequately funded, making sure we are funding the needs of the current military and preparing for future priorities. It should go without saying that an essential part of this responsibility is getting that funding passed in a timely fashion.

Right now, since we haven't passed the 2020 funding bill, the military is operating with a continuing resolution that maintains funding levels from last year. There are multiple problems with that. In the first place, the military is operating without all the funding it needs. For example, the Pentagon can't start new procurement projects. New research and development initiatives that keep us a step ahead of our adversaries are put on hold.

All told, under a continuing resolution, the military's purchasing power is reduced by roughly $5 billion each quarter. Five billion dollars each quarter that we continue to operate under a continuing resolution is the amount of purchasing power that is lost to our military to meet their critical priorities. To put that in perspective, that is the equivalent of losing out on about 56 F-35 Joint Strike Fighter planes, delivering $5 billion worth of military weapons and every 3 months; or nearly 2 complete Virginia-class attack submarines, like the recently commissioned USS South Dakota; or about 5,000 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles, like those used to clean up the site of the Baghdadi raid or strike Syrian chemical weapons facilities in 2018. That $5 billion isn't spare change; it is funding for critical military priorities.

In November of 2018, the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission released a report warning that our readiness had eroded to the point where we might struggle to win a war against a major power, like Russia or China. That is a dangerous situation for our country to be in, and we need to keep working to rebuild our military. That starts with making sure our military is fully funded in a timely fashion. On the floor last week, I noted that Democrats would likely believe that they are serious about legislating and that their years-long obsession with impeaching the President isn't distracting them from doing their job. After the Democrats' defense filibuster last week, it is becoming clear that the Democrats are incapable of putting anything ahead of partisan politics, including the safety of our country and the well-being of our military.

It is particularly ironic that the Democrats are blocking this defense funding bill, which would provide $250 million in assistance to Ukraine, at the same time they are trying to impeach the President for allegedly delaying Ukraine funding. Think about that. How hard is it to convince them that funding our military is more important than scoring points against the President?

I hope the leader will continue to bring up the defense funding bill and that enough of my Democratic colleagues will decide to join us in getting this funding to our military. It is the very least we can do for the men and women who spend every day working to keep us safe.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. President, Veterans Day is coming up on Monday, and our Nation will pause to remember all those who have served in our military. I will be calling my dad, who will be 100 in December—a World War II vet who flew Hellcats in the Pacific—to thank him again for his service.

As a U.S. Senator, I have had the privilege of meeting many veterans—men and women who decided they were willing to lay down their lives if necessary to ensure that their families, communities, and fellow countrymen could enjoy the blessings of freedom. Members of the military give up a lot to serve their country. They accept long deployments and days of duty that start before dawn or stretch long into the night. They accept the fact that they will miss their children and grandchildren, maybe Christmases, first steps and first days of kindergarten, date nights and little league games, and family reunions. They shoulder the burden of facing evil head-on so that the rest of us will never have to. And many of them bear the scars—the physical wounds and the invisible wounds—that war can also leave.

We enjoy tremendous blessings, and we are used to them. We are used to waking up in safety. We are used to voting in safety, attending church in safety, reading the newspaper in safety, expressing political
opinions in safety. It can be too easy to forget that we enjoy these tremendous blessings because men and women have been willing to go out and put their lives on the line for them.

Veterns Day is a chance to remind ourselves to remember that we live in peace and freedom every day because men and women were willing to answer the call to serve our country. We owe our veterans a debt we can never repay. Yet we cannot let us be so focused on what we forget what they have done for us, and we can resolve to lead the kinds of lives that make us worthy of their sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here to once again shine a spotlight on Senate Republicans’ unwavering support for President Trump as he continues to remake the Federal judiciary and to make clear how this is going to hurt families, women, and communities in Washington State and across our Nation.

I have come here before to call out Senate Republicans for rubberstamping this President’s judicial nominees—many of whom have no business sitting on the Federal bench—and for gutting precedent and norms to allow this President to jam-pack our courts with his hard-right, ideological picks from Neil Gorsuch to Brett Kavanaugh and down the line.

In fact, earlier this week, the majority leader pointed out how Senate Republicans have cleared the way on the floor for the Senate to take up even more Trump judges by poisoning the appropriations process and generally turning the Senate into a legislative graveyard. Led by the majority leader, Senate Republicans have ignored the standards we have held for decades when considering judicial nominees and opened the door to people who lack even the most basic qualifications to sit on the Federal bench.

For starters, today the Senate is slated to take up confirmation of three judges to the Federal bench. We know, for instance, that Steven Menashi, whom President Trump has nominated to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, has written that it is “ideally suited” for the Federal judiciary. In fact, the American Bar Association unanimously determined that Mr. Menashi “has never tried a case as a trial or co-counsel and has never examined a witness.”

Does that sound like a judge who will uphold the rule of law justly and apply the laws of our land fairly—someone rated as “objectively unqualified” by his peers? Mr. Menashi’s absence of commitment to protecting individuals’ fundamental rights? Again, unfortunately, the answer is no.

Then there is Steven Menashi, whom President Trump has nominated to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. We know Mr. Menashi has a deeply disturbing history of disparaging comments against women, against communities of color, against immigrants, and the LGBTQIA+ community. As if his views weren’t extreme enough, we know that in his role in the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Education, Mr. Menashi also worked on Secretary DeVos’s cruel rollback of title IX protections for survivors of sexual assault and protections for students regardless of sex. Under his tenure, Secretary DeVos has moved us toward a dangerous system of unaccountability and secrecy where LGBTQIA+ students could be subject to cruel discrimination at school.

Additionally, I am incredibly concerned about Mr. Menashi’s confirmed role in being one of the architects of Secretary DeVos’s efforts to violate the law by undermining protections for student borrowers who were cheated by predatory for-profit colleges—students whose rights are, at this moment, being undercut by people in our Federal Government, such as Mr. Menashi, who should be doing just the opposite.

People deserve to trust that the women and men who will serve as our Federal judges will ensure equal protection for all and apply the law fairly and without bias.

I ask again: Considering Mr. Menashi’s troubling record of undermining critical rights and questions surrounding his involvement in Secretary DeVos’s shameful efforts to ignore the law, does he sound like someone who deserves a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench—and for gutting a system that people can trust—one that upholds our laws, one that seeks justice without bias or favor or agenda.

I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting Mr. Rudofsky’s nomination, as well as the nominations of Ms. Pitlyk and Mr. Menashi and any nominee offered by President Trump who does not meet our high standards, and in returning to a thoughtful, rigorous, bipartisan process of selecting only the most qualified judges to a lifetime appointment on our Federal courts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to say just a word about Veterans Day, but then to talk about our Nation’s historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

We will celebrate Veterans Day as a nation on Monday, so this will be an opportunity to stand as a Member of the Armed Services Committee and as a Senator from a very militarily connected State to echo the words of Senator Thune from a few minutes ago that we owe a huge debt to our veterans.

Also, November 10 is the 24th anniversary of the Marine Corps. As a father of a U.S. marine, I also want to specifically offer my congratulations to the Corps.

One of the joys of serving in the Senate and being on the Armed Services Committee from a State that has the
military tradition of Virginia is the ability to meet wonderful leaders all around my commonwealth, all around the country, and all around the globe. For those serving our country, we are in their debt.

I do want to point out that we are having a debate on the floor over the Defense appropriations. The Senator from South Dakota spoke a little bit about that. I just want to lay out from the Democratic perspective what is at stake. It is not support of the military that is at stake, but an Armed Services Committee member, I am devoted to making sure we get to the right appropriations level for the Department of Defense.

What is holding this up is not one party or the other not supporting the military. What is holding this up is that Democrats do not approve of the practice that has been engaged in by President Trump of rummaging through the Defense Department’s budget, as well as with minority-serving institutions, which our military leadership says is a nonmilitary issue.

We do not believe that once Congress appropriates money for a defense budget, the President should be able to use an emergency declaration to go into the coffers of the Pentagon and cannibalize projects that affect our military families to use for the border wall. To the extent there is a dispute right now, that is what the dispute is about. It is not support for the Defense Department or not; it is whether we should allow a rummage sale in the Pentagon budget to fund a border wall.

If you are going to have a discussion about border wall funding, let’s do that separately, but let’s not cannibalize the Defense Department’s budget to do it.

### FUTURE ACT

Mr. President, I said that I want to talk a little bit about our historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

Many of my colleagues have been on the floor this week talking about a bill called the FUTURE Act, which is bipartisan. It passed from the House over to the Senate, fostering undergraduate talent by unlocking resources for education. It also has bipartisan support in the Senate. I am hoping that because it has bipartisan support, we might be able to move forward with it promptly.

Congress put in place a mandatory funding stream in title III of the Higher Education Act to invest in these institutions. Historically Black colleges and universities—commonly called HBCUs—Tribal colleges and universities, and other minority-serving institutions, and other minority-serving institutions help boost educational opportunity for all students but especially for students of color. These schools serve a disproportionate number of students of color and are eligible and receive Pell grants. Combined, our minority-serving institutions serve nearly 6 million students, which is about one-quarter of all undergraduate students in the country.

The $255 million in annual mandatory funding for these institutions accounts for nearly half of all Federal funding for these institutions.

Unfortunately, the mandatory funding expired more than a month ago on September 30 because of inaction by the Senate—inaction by the Senate; the House has passed the FUTURE Act and realizes the future of these colleges, particularly the students they serve.

The FUTURE Act, which I cosponsored with Senator Doug Jones and Senator Tim Scott, extends this mandatory funding for all minority-serving institutions for 2 years. The bill is bipartisan. The bill has the support of the White House. It is fully paid for, and it is budget neutral. There are no budget gimmicks involved. Yet we are not able to vote on the bill for a reason I don’t understand.

Let me talk about HBCUs in Virginia because we have five: Virginia Union University, which is in my neighborhood; Virginia State University in Richmond; Hampton University in Richmond; Hampton University in Hampton, VA; Norfolk State in Norfolk; and Virginia University of Lynchburg. These five institutions received almost $30 million in this annual mandatory funding over the last 10 years.

Norfolk State University’s president, Dr. Adams-Gaston, said that if the FUTURE Act is not passed, “Norfolk State’s educational programs in both teacher preparation and the STEM fields will be put at risk at a time when we are working to increase diversity in the front of our classrooms, and grow the pipeline of diverse STEM graduates to fill the jobs of the new economy.”

Norfolk State University uses its funding to keep student-faculty ratios low, to provide distance education programs, to support curricular updates, faculty training, and technology enhancement, especially for social work, computer science, nursing, and education degree programs. It also uses the funds to prepare and support students to attend graduate or professional schools and to award scholarships to deserving students.

Virginia Union, which is in my neighborhood, yesterday, Jaylynn Hodges, who is a junior biology major at Union, was in the Senate. She spoke about the impact of title III funds and its impact on her own education. Jaylynn wants to pursue a career in medicine, and fortunately Virginia Union uses the funds on neuroscience and chemistry laboratories, where Jaylynn has been able to develop her technical and analytical skills.

Virginia Union also uses funding for technology readiness, workforce development programs in STEM and future careers, academic support services, such as academic counseling, updates to historic buildings, and hiring faculty. Without passing the FUTURE Act, all of these programs are in serious jeopardy.

The HBCUs serve as strong economic drivers and generate significant economic returns for Virginia’s communities. I have also had the good fortune to be on HBCU campuses in Florida, and I know they have the same impact within their communities and with the entire State as those in Virginia. The UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—found that, in Virginia alone, the direct economic impact of our five HBCUs is more than $313 million.

It is not just the Commonwealth that matters but the impact these institutions have on individual students. In one more quote, the current student body president at Norfolk State University, Lineli Woodson, expressed:

Norfolk State University’s supportive and culturally aware learning environment helped me to grow as a leader and put me on a path to success. I am grateful in particular to have had these opportunities at other schools. All students regardless of their socio-economic background deserve access to quality higher education and the opportunity to realize their full potential.

In closing, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, which was named after the iconic civil rights leader and Supreme Court Justice, on a personal note, I was proud to have Thurgood Marshall’s son John Marshall serve as my secretary of public safety when I was Governor—wrote a letter to Senate leadership. It reads that even in the week since this program expired, which was at the end of September, campuses have already notified employees that their positions and programs might be terminated as of September 30, 2020, if not sooner. In the letter, it is noted: “These are real jobs, held by people who interact with students every day, in programs that play a critical role in graduating and retaining students in the STEM fields, among other disciplines.”

As a former Governor—and the Presiding Officer and I share that experience—I know that the budget-creating process begins well in advance of the budget’s becoming effective. These minority-serving institutions, most of which do not have significant endowments, face unique fiscal challenges, and they count on this mandatory funding. Any uncertainty in the funding process poses a significant planning challenge for them, and they run the risk of creating a financial nightmare for the students.

Today marks 51 days since the House passed the FUTURE Act unanimously—these days, it is hard to act unanimously on things in Congress, but this bill passed the House unanimously—and 38 days since funding lapsed for the schools in my State and for our minority-serving institutions across the country. It is time for the Senate to pass the bipartisan FUTURE Act and pass it now. I urge my colleagues to join me in that endeavor.
I yield the floor.
I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. Scott of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and I have come to a floor to offer a unanimous consent on a bill called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act. We are in consultation with our colleagues on the other side that have another bill that they would also like to offer a unanimous consent request for, and we are going to talk and continue the conversation during these two upcoming votes to see if we can work out holds on their bill, and we certainly would consider to do that.

But Senator BLUMENTHAL and I do expect to offer a unanimous consent on our bill which would lower out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, which is something I thought we were all for. But working in good faith with our colleagues to try to work through these two issues, we are going to give it a little bit of time, as long as we can get that done before we leave today.

I will just say there is no agreement to pass these. If they could pass sequentially, I feel the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act.

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 350 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander  
Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Boozman  
Braun  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Corbyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crush  
Daines  
Enzi  
Fischler  
Hammer  
Hirono  
Jones  
Kaine  
King  
Leahy  
 warfare  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Feinstein  
Gillibrand  
Gillibrand  
Harrington  
Hawley  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
McConnell  
McSally  
Murray  
Murkowski  

NAYS—41

Baldwin  
Bennett  
Blumenthal  
Brown  
Cantwell  
Cardin  
Carper  
Casey  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Feinstein  
Gillibrand  
Gillibrand  
Harrington  
Hawley  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
McConnell  
McSally  
Murray  
Murkowski  

NOT VOTING—8

Boener  
Harris  
Isakson  
Klobuchar  
Perdue  
Sanders  
Klobuchar  
Perdue  
Sanders  

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

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

The Democratic Leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT—S. 185

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it is now several weeks since the President asked our troops to leave a critical sector in northern Syria, and, subsequently, lots of things happened, including at least 100 and probably more ISIS prisoners escaping, an uncertainty as to who is guarding the prisons where ISIS prisoners are kept, and a whole new strategy as to how to continue the fight against ISIS.

ISIS is not vanquished. ISIS is weak but not vanquished, and we all know ISIS can come back. We all know a small group thousands of miles away can do untold damage in our homeland. Yet we still have no plan, that we have heard, from the administration on how we are dealing with ISIS; how are we dealing with the prisoners who escaped; how are we dealing with the prisoners who are still incarcerated; and how are we dealing with ISIS overall.

This is one of the greatest security threats America faces, and I would hope we could pass this proposal, which simply demands that the administration report to Congress on what their plan is to deal with ISIS. It is that simple. That is the immediate danger.

I know my friend, the Senator from Florida, wants to talk about what happened in the past. We can argue that all day long, but the immediate danger is ISIS, the ISIS prisoners who have escaped, the ISIS prisoners who are incarcerated, and the ISIS members who still are around. We don’t have a strategy, and it is one of the greatest failings of foreign policy not only of this administration but of any administration.

A resolution passed the House a while ago. It has laid fallow here. All we are asking in this legislation is very simple: to require a report on the strategy to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State.

I hope we will not hear objection. I don’t see how anyone could object when the security of America is at risk and when ISIS is still a danger. Every one of us could come up with an amendment to make it better. We know we will not get it done if that happens America faces, and I would hope we could move this forward, and then we can debate other issues that are not directly dispositive here because we have an immediate crisis, and we need a report.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, as in legislative session, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 281, S.
2755, a bill to require a report on the plan to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madison President, resolving the right to object. I thank the Democratic leader for his concerns about the defeat of ISIS. If there is one thing I hope we can all agree on, it is that Turkey is not our ally or friend right now. Turkey’s invasion of Syria is buffeting ISIS, Iran, and Russia, and hurting our great ally, Israel.

The United States must stand up for our partners, the Kurds, who helped us fight ISIS. I am hopeful the ceasefire will last, but the American soldiers and our partners, the Kurds, safe. Nobody wants our men and women in uniform involved in unnecessary, extended military conflicts.

Bringing our troops home is a goal we all share. In order to achieve that goal, we need to have a fuller understanding of the crisis in Syria and what got us there—with the hope our troops can finally come home.

I also agree that the President should always be clear with Congress on where all U.S. troops are located and the purpose of their deployment. Unfortunately, my colleague’s proposal would produce a report that only tells a small part of the story.

In the name of transparency and a fuller understanding of how we got here, I am proposing a modification to my colleague’s bill to require a report that includes information on President Obama’s plan for Syria.

We didn’t get here overnight. The Democratic leader knows that. He said himself it took us 5 years to get here. So I think we all would like to see what the strategy—or lack of strategy—was from the last administration that put us in this position today. Let’s get all the facts on the table so lawmakers in Congress and Americans all across the country can have all the information we need to keep Americans and our allies safe.

Reserving the right to object, therefore, I urge that the Democratic leader modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk. I further ask that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Democratic leader so modify his request?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is a diversion. We can all debate history. Maybe Bush was to blame. Maybe Obama was to blame. Who knows. Maybe Harry Truman was to blame when they set up CENTO. That is something we can debate at a later time.

We have an immediate crisis. We need a report, and our Republican colleagues keep finding ways so they can object so the President doesn’t have to answer. That is wrong. It risks the security of America, and it is not what we should be doing.

So I object, and I urge us to pass the amendment without the modification, which is still as valid as it was a few minutes ago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard on the modification. Is there objection to the original request?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madison President, resolving the right to object. I am disappointed in yet another political stunt from the Democratic leader. It is clear this is nothing but a political attack on the President. President Trump’s goal is to bring American troops home and keep our partners, the Kurds, safe and our ally, Israel, secure. The Democratic leader is requesting information from President Trump but refuses to join me in asking for information about the sequence of events and the strategy under President Obama that led us to this point.

This is sad, but it is not surprising. It is just another charade in a long list of political games. Americans deserve a safe Israel and a safe Syria, so I stand today to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madison President, if they are worried about an attack, it is not on this President or a previous President. That is the political stunt here. I would say to my friend from Florida, he knows what he is doing. He is trying to stop this from happening. The attack we are worried about is an attack by ISIS on the United States.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, liberal, or conservative, the country needs a plan. All of the diversion, all of the games will not prevent the American people from seeing that we need that, and it is our job as Senators to push the administration to do it.

So I would have hoped we could have passed this amendment without the diversionary, partisan proposal made by the Senator from Florida. I am sorry we haven’t been able to move the amendment. It is wrong for the safety of this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is. Will the Senate advise and consent to the Philpott Wilson nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE, the following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote? The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 3, as follows: (Roll Call Vote No. 351 Ex.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
<th>Nays</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>3</td>
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The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk reads the nomination of William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1994

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to offer a path forward on the SECURE Act—the way that I think we could actually do some legislatively and here and pass a constructive bill.

A little brief history, I think, is in order and helpful for context. About 3 years ago, the Senate Finance Committee passed a reasonably similar legislation, but the Republican leadership unilaterally. It was never considered on the Senate floor. The House took some of these ideas and passed their own legislation.

My own view is that most of the substance of this legislation is very constructive. Most of what it does is it makes it easier for middle-class families to save for their retirement. That is constructive. However, the bill that came over from the House is different from the bill that came out of the Senate Finance Committee and was never considered on the Senate floor. The House bill dropped a number of provisions that had bipartisan support. They added some provisions that had never been vetted by anybody on the Senate side, at least not in a procedural way.

There is a proper way to resolve these kinds of differences, and that is to put this bill on the Senate floor, open it up for amendments, and allow the Senate to work its will. The Senate will almost certainly pass some amendments from the Republicans and amend that, and then we can iron out whatever little differences there are.

This is the way we legislate. That is what I am suggesting we do today. To do otherwise would be to treat this body as just a rubberstamp for the House, and that is not the purpose of having two legislative bodies.

I should also note that our Democratic colleagues have frequently criticized Republican leadership and the Republican majority for not legislatively. Sometimes they have a point. The minority leader has said that the Senate is a legislative graveyard. He has criticized Leader McConnell for not putting bills on the floor and at one point Senator Schumer said:

We want to debate these other issues. . . . We are not saying our Republican friends are going to think exactly as we do, but let’s have a debate.

I couldn’t agree more. I think we should have a debate. I think we should have a series of votes. I think we could bang this out in a day, at the end of which we would pass the SECURE Act, preferably after considering amendments from both sides. That is what I am proposing. In fact, we have been proposing this for weeks.

We have shared with our Democratic colleagues several amendments that the Republican Senators would like to offer. I have other colleagues who would like to offer them. We have been asking our Democratic colleagues for their list of amendments. What things would they like to do? What amendments would they like to consider? We have restricted our amendments to those which affect the Tax Code. We have suggested that they do likewise.

Amazingly, to me, we haven’t heard a single suggestion yet from our Democratic colleagues. It is amazing because I have heard plenty of criticism about our Tax Code from our Democratic friends, including criticism about the limitation we put on State and local tax deductions. As I said, we are suggesting the Democratic colleagues who would like to extend the electric vehicle credit. There are some who have proposed new taxes on wealth. Chairman Wyden has a proposal to put a tax on unrealized market-to-market gains on assets. There is a long list of ideas we have heard from the other side.

This is the opportunity to have some votes and find out whether there is support and to what extent there is support for the SECURE Act on our side, and we are willing to vote. Every Republican Senator is in favor of this proposal that I am going to suggest in a few moments, whereby we would have specific amendments on our side and allow the Democrats have an equal number on their side. I don’t know what could be more reasonable than this approach.

Quickly, my amendment fixes a technical drafting error in our tax reform. It is called the QIP. It is the acronym for ‘qualified improvement property.’ Here is the problem. Due to a drafting error, businesses are now forced to recognize the cost of improvements over a long period of time rather than to expense them in the years in which the expenses occurred. It was a drafting error. Everybody acknowledges it was a drafting error and was unintended.

Thirteen of my Democratic colleagues are cosponsors of my legislation to fix this, and every Republican Senator supports fixing this error. Those are 66 Senators right there. I am not asking for a guaranteed outcome. I am just asking for a vote. Let’s have a vote on it. I have other colleagues who would also like to have votes on their amendments. As I said, our proposal is that the Democrats pick an equal number on their side and do two legislative. It has become the most far-reaching and significant Federal school choice legislation that has ever been enacted, benefiting up to 50 million school kids across this country. That legislation is already done, and it is actually not what this fight is about. That fight was about expanding 529s to K–12 education. The Senate took up that amendment, and it became the only amendment the Senate adopted on the floor of the Senate that added anything to the tax cut. It passed this body at about 1 o’clock in the morning. A 50–50 vote, with the Vice President having broken the tie.

It has become the most far-reaching and significant Federal school choice legislation that has ever been enacted, benefiting up to 50 million school kids across this country. That legislation is already done, and it is actually not what this fight is about. That fight was about expanding 529s to K–12 education. The American people won that fight, and the Democratic opposition lost that fight.

This amendment is, instead, a much more modest amendment that takes 529 savings plans and expands them to three groups of people.

No. 1, it allows the parents and grandparents of kids with disabilities to use 529s to save for educational therapies for kids with disabilities and to save for the additional assistance those kids with disabilities need. That is an eminently commonsense proposition.

No. 2, it allows homeschooling families to participate in 529 savings plans. In 2017, the Democrats carved out of 529s both kids with disabilities and homeschooling families. There is no reason kids with disabilities should...
be discriminated against by the Democrats in this body, and there is no reason homeschooling families should be discriminated against by the Democrats in this body.

The third group of people—benefits is the school students. That this amendment says is that the parents and grandparents who have kids in public schools can use 529s to pay for additional educational expenses. That means they can use 529s to pay for standard preparation. That means they can use 529s to pay for tutoring costs or whatever additional educational expenses they have above and beyond their public schooling. This would potentially benefit every child in public school today.

We may see the Democrats suggest that voting on this is somehow partisan or divisive. The nice thing is that we know as an absolute fact that it is not. Why do we know that? My amendment is for the expanding of 529s for kids in public schools, homeschoolers, and for public school students.

My amendment was taken up in the House Ways and Means Committee, and it was adopted in the House Ways and Means Committee by a vote of 417 to 3. This was a nearly unanimous vote of 417 to 3. What an incredibly bipartisan vote that was. Let’s have a little discussion on the floor about retirement policy and about tax policy. Let’s vote on this before the chip is away. Then let’s actually send a bill to the President that will help the people whom we all represent.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, in reclaiming my time, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019, the SECURE Act, which is at the desk.

I further ask that there be a period of general debate on the bill to be limited to 10 hours, equally divided between the leaders or their designees, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the only amendments in order on the Republican side be the amendments to be offered by Senators TOOMY, LEE, BURK, BRAUN, and CRTZ on the designations of which are at the desk, and five amendments that propose changes to the Internal Revenue Code to be determined by the Democratic leader, with the concurrence of the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Finance.

I further ask that the debate on each amendment be limited to 30 minutes, equally divided between proponents and opponents, and that each amendment, unless it would be considered germane postcloture, be subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold and that following the use or yielding back of time on each amendment, the Senate proceed to a vote on each amendment.

Finally, I ask that following the disposition of those amendments, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and that the Senate vote on the passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURNE). Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, in preserving the right to objects, earlier this year, the House passed the SECURE Act—a bipartisan package—in a nearly unanimous vote of 417 to 3. This bill has overwhelming bipartisan support, and it takes many good steps toward improving retirement security for families across our country. It would help Gold Star families, small businesses, long-term and part-time workers, and more.

With families in our country, nationwide, in the middle of a retirement crisis, we should take the opportunity we have right here in front of us today to offer them some relief as soon as possible.

This bill, the SECURE Act, has wide bipartisan support here in the Senate,
Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the impeachment inquiry currently underway in the House. First, I want to recognize the courageous public servants who have testified in defense of U.S. national security and in defense of the rule of law and our democratic institutions. I will cite just four: Lieutenant Colonel Vindman, Ambassador Yovanovitch, Ambassador Taylor, and Kinley.

Despite the two decades of military service by Lieutenant Colonel Vindman and the Purple Heart he earned for his sacrifice for our country in Iraq, his character has faced brutal attacks from cable news and from some current and former Members of Congress.

As former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul put it in a Washington Post column last week, “Such smear tactics are revolting and un-American. [Lt. Col.] Vindman has served our country with honor and distinction, both on and off the battlefield. . . . And he is a patriot—as you would expect from someone with his outstanding resume.”

So said former Ambassador McFaul, and I agree with him. I think most Americans would agree with him. Lieutenant Colonel Vindman is just one of the many brave patriots who have testified as part of this impeachment inquiry.

Ambassador Yovanovitch has dedicated over 30 years to U.S. foreign service. She has rightfully earned the respect and credibility that she has withstood in the U.S. national security community for her anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine and for her unwavering commitment to U.S. national security interests.

Ambassador McKinley has served this country as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State and Ambassador to Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. He has demonstrated fierce loyalty to his colleagues in the State Department and to the United States itself.

Ambassador Taylor’s life has been marked by his service to our nation, from West Point to the 101st Airborne in Vietnam, to his work as Ambassador to Ukraine and other significant foreign policy roles.

We should all be inspired by these and countless other public servants who work to protect and serve the United States every day. When I reflect upon their service to our country and their integrity, I am reminded of one of the lines from “America the Beautiful”: “Oh, beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years.” That is what these patriots are doing—trying to understand and deliberate about what their actions should be now that will help America over time, to see beyond the years. That is part of our collective duty to protect the values and ideals that these individuals have demonstrated that they have a care and a concern about our institutions, our government, our democracy, our Constitution, and, of course, a concern about what their actions mean for the future.

Over the past week, the House committees leading the impeachment inquiry regarding President Trump’s, in my judgment, abuse of power, have publicly released the first full transcripts from several of their interviews with State officials and diplomats. The transcripts explain in rich detail how the President employed Rudy Giuliani, his personal attorney, to manage a sham diplomacy that focused on personal vendettas and unfounded—and that is an understatement—conspiracy theories in Ukraine.

Ambassador Yovanovitch testified that there was a “concerted campaign” to have her removed as Ambassador to Ukraine and repeatedly discussed the threatening and bullying behavior of the President and Mr. Giuliani because of her disagreements with Mr. Giuliani. The Ambassador explained that a sentence by a, quote, “Limey diplomat,” was focused on significant concerns regarding Mr. Giuliani’s behavior and told the Ambassador that she “really needed to watch her back.”

When asked whether she felt threatened after President Trump told the Ukrainian President that she was “going to go through some things,” Ambassador Yovanovitch responded unequivocally “yes,” meaning yes, she felt threatened.

And she indicated some of her friends were “very concerned” about her personal safety.

Just imagine that. Imagine that. A U.S. Ambassador concerned about what would happen to her next. Even those around her were concerned about her personal safety because of what a President was saying and doing—and those around him.

Later in her testimony, Ambassador Yovanovitch discussed the influence of Rudy Giuliani in Ukraine. When asked whether anyone at the State Department tried to stop Giuliani’s efforts, she explained as follows: I don’t think so. I don’t think they felt they could.

Now, let’s turn to Ambassador Taylor. He described similar concerns about Mr. Giuliani. Referencing the investigations President Trump wanted Ukraine to pursue into his political opponent—in this case, former Vice President Joe Biden—Ambassador Taylor described that the “irregular channels” of Ukraine being directed by Mr. Giuliani was focused on “one or two specific cases, irrespective of whether it helped solve the corruption problem” in Ukraine.

Ambassador Taylor further explained that it was his “clear understanding” that “security assistance money” for Ukraine would not be delivered until President Zelensky “committed to pursue the investigation.”

Ambassador McKinley, a former senior advisor to Secretary of State Pompeo, confirmed that he resigned because of his concerns about the President’s shadow diplomacy efforts.
with Mr. Giuliani. When the chairman asked Mr. McKinley whether he re-
signed in part because of efforts to use the State Department to dig up dirt on a political opponent, Mr. McKinley re-

vented: That is fair. And if I can underscore, in 37 years of being in the Foreign Service and different parts of the globe and working on many con-

versational issues, working 10 years back in Washington, I had never seen that.

As the Washington Post reported on September 21, the President’s behavior related to this Ukraine matter has re-

ailed—in the opinion of this jour-

nalist at the Post, a reporter who has covered the President very closely.—No. 1, “a President convinced of his own invin-

credibility—apparently willing and even eager to wield the vast powers of the United States to taint a political foe and confident that no one could hold him back.”

Let me move to the whistleblower protection laws. With this sense of invincibility, the President has di-

rected some of his most pointed criti-

cisms at the brave whistleblower who came forward to expose the President’s call with the Ukrainian President.

On Twitter, the President has de-

manded to meet the whistleblower face-to-face, despite laws that clearly pro-

tect the whistleblower’s right to anony-

mity.

Just the other day, the whistle-

blower’s attorney confirmed that his client offered to answer written ques-


From multiple levels of the government. The intelligence community and Congress must continue to do all we can to protect the current whistle-

blower’s identity and personal safety.

The current legal protections for whis-

bleowers are insufficient to fully pro-

tect the whistleblower. The personal safety not only places the whistleblower’s per-

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This inquiry is not simply about President Trump’s clear abuse of power. This inquiry is about our de-

mocracy and the values our Founders agreed should guide our Nation.

We owe the whistleblower, Lt. Col. Vindman, Ambassadors Yovanovitch, Taylor, and McKinley, as well as oth-

ers, our deepest gratitude and our ap-

preciation for their integrity and com-

mitment to American values. They are real American heroes who, despite the President’s bullying and harassment, have stood up in defense of our demo-

cratic institutions and the values the Founders fought to guide our Nation.

I yield the floor.

Ms. Collins. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 1:45 p.m. start at this time.

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

VOTE ON NARDINI NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate ad-

vise and consent to the Nardini nomi-

nation.

Ms. Collins. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Ken-

nedy). Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient sec-

cond.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. Thune. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Perdue).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) would have voted “Yea” and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran) would have voted “Yea”.

Mr. Durbin. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from New Jersey (Ms. Menendez), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Young). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 352 Ex.]

YEAS—86

Alexander
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Brown
Burr
Carroll
Capito
Casey
Cassidy

Collins
Cousins
Corbyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Crout
Daines
Daines

Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Hawaii
Heinrich
Harma
Hawkins
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Jones
Kaine
Katz
Kennedy
King

Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Crout
Daines
Daines

Daines
Burr
Carroll
Capito
Casey
Cassidy

Collins
Cousins
Corbyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Crout
Daines
Daines

Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Hawaii
Heinrich
Harma
Hawkins
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Jones
Kaine
Katz
Kennedy
King

Daines
Burr
Carroll
Capito
Casey
Cassidy

Collins
Cousins
Corbyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Crout
Daines
Daines

Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Hawaii
Heinrich
Harma
Hawkins
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Jones
Kaine
Katz
Kennedy
King

S6464 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE November 7, 2019
November 7, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S6465

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 486.

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

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

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Standing Rules of the Senate, shall hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Chad F. Wolf, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security, (New Position) be waived.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

BARKER HOUSE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about something positive that is happening in Ohio with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corps is involved with some civic-minded community volunteers in something that will help preserve our history in Ohio. It wouldn’t be happening but for the vision of the head of the Army Corps, Mr. R.D. James, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. It is a good-news project regarding the preservation of an important piece of the history of the Northwest Territory and the founding of Ohio.

The House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 for its historic significance. In fact, Joseph Barker. Sr., and the houses he built play an important role in a new, award-winning book by historian David McCullough, “The Pioneers,” and it tells the story of the Northwest Territory and the founding of Ohio in the wake of the Revolutionary War. In “The Pioneers” book, Colonel Barker’s stately homes were an anomaly out on the frontier. His own home was described as “a large, brick house in the Federal style, with a handsome front door, flanked by recessed side windows and an elliptical fanlight overhead....”

This also describes the historic Barker House where we are trying to preserve.

These houses brought a level of architectural refinement that stood in sharp contrast to the log cabins on the rugged landscape where these pioneers were settling.

The Barker House is currently owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is owned by them because it sits right next to the Willows Island Locks and Dam on the Ohio River. The house was used as office space by the Corps back in the 1960s, and today, the house is still standing. It is vacant, in bad shape, and unsafe to enter, but it is savable.

I visited this historic Barker House back in September of 2018. I learned then that the Corps was proposing to demolish the Barker House. They then considered a proposal to move the house by brick to a new location off of Army Corps’ land. Neither made sense.

That is when I met Jack Haessly, who led a group—along with Wesley Clarke, Bill Reynolds, Bob Ferguson, and others—a local Barker House friends group who said they would be willing to raise the money to restore this home on its historic site overlooking the Ohio River. They wanted to make sure it would be accessible to visitors there and made into a museum.

I immediately called the Secretary, Mr. R.D. James of the Army Corps, and
asked if he would reconsider the decision to demolish this historic home. After hearing the story of the house and the details of the group’s plan to preserve it and after getting an assessment from the Army Corps, Mr. James agreed to reverse the Corps’ decision and to work with us on preserving the home. He deserves great credit for that.

Congressman Bill Johnson, who represents this area, has also been an excellent partner in pursuing these sensible solutions.

Right now, we are working on developing legislation that I hope to introduce soon to convey the house and the surrounding land to the Friends Group. We have made a lot of progress so far. Just last week, the Corps completed drawings of the specific parcel proposed to be conveyed, which also includes the creation of an access road so that the house can be visited and enjoyed by the public. We appreciate the Ohio Department of Transportation and Director Jack Marchbanks for working with us on the road access. The road access issue was critical, and ODOT was very helpful. The Ohio State Historic Preservation Office has also jumped in and played a constructive role. This is an example of a true public-private partnership, made possible by Secretary James. I want to thank him, the Army Corps, his team, the Barker House friends group, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and ODOT. All of them are partnering with us to ensure that the house can be visited and enjoyed by the public. We appreciate the Ohio Department of Transportation and Director Jack Marchbanks for working with us on the road access. The road access issue was critical, and ODOT was very helpful. The Ohio State Historic Preservation Office has also jumped in and played a constructive role.

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Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor today to talk about the opportunity we have here in Congress to make substantial reforms to address an issue that keeps a lot of Americans up at night, and that is whether they are going to have enough money in their retirement.

I chair the Finance subcommittee that handles retirement and pension issues, and I have worked to pass bipartisan legislation with then-Congressman Ben Cardin, now-Senator Ben Cardin, over the years. That legislation has helped people save more in their IRAs and 401(k)s and other retirement plans, but we still have a long way to go. In fact, according to a recent study by Northwestern Mutual, two-thirds of Americans believe they will outlive their retirement savings. People are right to be worried.

Right now, way too many workers don’t have access to a retirement plan at all, and too many Americans who do have a plan are not saving enough. Fewer than half of the employees at businesses with fewer than 50 workers have access to a plan, and only 34 percent of them participate. That is where the major problem is. These are workers at mom-and-pop shops, small manufacturers, and countless other employers who make up the backbone of our economy.

We can and should do more to make sure that these small business employees are set up for retirement so that they can find peace of mind in their retirement. What is more, only 22 percent of part-time workers today have access to a plan—only 22 percent. More Americans can have a retirement plan just by making some simple changes in law.

A lot of Americans that do have a plan haven’t saved enough, so they are not able to adequately fund their retirement. Inadequate funding is a significant challenge for their increasing lifespans. People are living longer, so this is a bigger problem.

Social Security is absolutely essential. It is great that that safety net is there. It is necessary to cushion the retirement incomes for Americans. But the average payout from Social Security is $1,400 bucks a month. Try living on that. It is tough. A lot of people have a hard time with that, so they need these extra retirement savings.

The lack of adequate retirement savings is made worse by the fact that we have more and more baby boomers who are retiring, so we have a bigger group in this category. And people are living longer. That is a good thing, but it creates an additional challenge with regard to retirement savings.

For all these reasons, we need to overhaul the laws governing the private retirement system to help more people get access to workplace savings plans. These plans are key because for our economy overall, and make sure people don’t outlive their savings in their retirement.

The good news is that we have that package before us right now here in the Senate. It would go a long way toward making these changes. It is called the SECURE Act, and it has already passed the House of Representatives 5½ months ago by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 417 to 0—that is right, 417 to 3. The never happens around here. This is totally bipartisan. It is one of these issues where we would have an opportunity to pass it and then send it directly to the President for his signature, and he has said he would sign it. We are divided on so many issues in Washington today, but this is one where we have a rare chance for a truly bipartisan solution to a problem that is affecting people in every single State represented in this body.

Today, fewer than one in five have a live UC was tried. It was an attempt to get a vote on the SECURE Act—this legislation I am talking about—with five amendments on each side. I support that, and I supported my colleagues today who came forward to offer that. The amendments they outlined as our five Republican amendments all make sense to me. Then the Democrats were told: You should offer five amendments also. You all pick them. Unfortunately, it was objected to by the other side. That didn’t work out really well. Then in the past 5½ months, some of us have been trying to get this legislation done, and there are big concerns on both sides of the aisle, but we are at a point now where we know, having raised this live UC, that we continue to have this stalemate. After 5½ months, I think it is time for us to move forward on these reforms.

Again, I like the amendments that were proposed today. As an example, I agree that allowing 529 plans to be used for homeschooling expenses makes sense. It is a reform Congress should take up, but this underlying bill that addresses every element needed to make our retirement plans is supported, even without this provision, is one we also ought to take up. As difficult as it is for us to give up on amendments on both sides, if that can’t be done because it gets blocked, then let’s go ahead and move the underlying legislation, the SECURE Act.

It is a worthwhile piece of legislation. It helps in a category where we need help badly; that is, small businesses. They have an easier time setting up retirement plans under the SECURE Act, because it increases the tax credit for small businesses. In general, you get $500 now for starting a retirement plan. That would be raised to $5,000. That is a tenfold increase. Again, small businesses, where a major goal is to get retirement plans in place, says that would be a significant incentive for them to set up a retirement plan.

Second, it provides an annual tax credit to small businesses that introduce automatic enrollment features into their plans. Small businesses will have to opt out of saving for retirement as opposed to opting in. These autoenrollment features are fantastic. The average participation in a 401(k) in a midsize business is about 75 percent of the employees. If it is autoenrollment, where you automatically enroll unless you opt out, it is about 95 percent. This makes a lot of sense to me. That is an innovative change in this legislation.

It streamlines a lot of the existing regulations associated with administering a plan so small business owners who already have a lot on their plates can have an easier time focusing on retirement for their employees rather than bureaucracy and redtape.

Perhaps most important to me, the bill allows small businesses to participate in what is called open MEPs—open multiple employer defined contribution plans. These are plans that allow businesses—one of these issues we talked about earlier—even if they are not in the same industry, they can come together to work together to set up a joint plan for their employees. That becomes much more effective for small businesses because they can share the administrative costs and share some of the liability expenses. It has a lot of benefits for these small employers and will result in more people I represent getting a retirement plan.

In all, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates this reform alone would lead to 700,000 new retirement accounts for small business workers who need access.

In all, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates this reform alone would lead to 700,000 new retirement accounts for small business workers who need access.
In my experience, that security really works. I grew up in a small family business. My dad started his own business. When he had five employees and my mom was the bookkeeper, he said they were going to set up a retirement plan. He was way ahead of the game and put a profit-sharing plan in place at the time. It was before the 401(k). They had no profit the first few years, so it was a little awkward, but when they finally started making money, everybody had a stake. Everybody got a little bit in their retirement nest eggs. When they hit the 401(k), they immediately started a 401(k) plan as well.

I meet people today whom I have known my entire life who turned a wrench their whole careers as a lift truck technician—a lift truck mechanic—who have a retirement savings plan now because of that. They have a nice nest egg of about $500,000 to $600,000 that they were able to accumulate. So I know this works. I know small businesses have the opportunity to do more for their workers if we help them more here in Washington. I am committed to trying to get this done.

Another important part of the SECURE Act has to do with older Americans. It says we should raise the age limit for required minimum distributions for American workers to start depleting and paying taxes on their retirement savings. Currently, at 70½ years old, you have to start taking money out of your retirement plan. You have to do it whether you are working or not. Many people at that age are still working. My dad was still working at 70½. It drove him crazy that he had to take money out while he was still working. He wanted to keep building it up. So in this legislation, we say let’s expand that to age 72.

Then, as important, the bill actually lifts the current prohibition on IRA contributions by people over 70½. That means people can make the choice if they want to keep investing in their retirement plan for as long as they see fit. Remember, somebody who makes it to 70½ is likely to live into his or her nineties. So there is still a lot of time in retirement where you need to have that funding. That kind of flexibility is how we allow people to manage their own retirement savings that makes sense.

The SECURE Act is good for small businesses and good for older Americans, but the reforms don’t end there. It has a number of other wonderful provisions. In fact, one is particularly urgent. It reforms the pension non-discrimination laws I authored alongside my friend Senator BEN CARDIN. Our legislation is very simple. It says we should raise the age limit for required minimum distributions for American workers to start depleting and paying taxes on their retirement savings. Currently, at 70½ years old, you have to start taking money out of your retirement plan. You have to do it whether you are working or not. Many people at that age are still working. My dad was still working at 70½. It drove him crazy that he had to take money out while he was still working. He wanted to keep building it up. So in this legislation, we say let’s expand that to age 72.

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that should have been manageable, with affordable life-sustaining medications.

I heard from Rachael from Greenville who has three children with Type 1 diabetes, but insurance denied coverage for insulin ministry—it simply wasn’t affordable. So Rachael’s family drove across the border into Canada where she said they were able to purchase insulin for $71 per box, compared to about $600 for the exact same insulin in Michigan. Rachael is rightfully angry that she needed to travel to another country simply to get her children the insulin they need to stay alive.

Sharon from Detroit told me about the financial challenges of treating sarcoidosis, a rare disease, while also fighting triple-negative breast cancer. Sharon said that insurance was going to charge her $5,000 for medication she could easily take at home, but it would completely cover it only if she went to the hospital. In the last thing Sharon wanted to do was trek to the hospital as she coped with the side effects of chemotherapy.

And I heard from Jeanette from Burton, who had a nearly $500 co-pay for a prescription while undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer, but without the help of a charitable patient group, she could not afford the medication. While working to get assistance, she went without her medication and could have had complications.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated stories, and these are not isolated individuals. Too many Michiganders are struggling with rising prescription drug costs, and the consequences can be literally life-threatening. Between 2012 and 2018, prices for brand-name drugs in the United States have increased 68 percent, making critical medications out of reach for most families.

The list price in 2017 for a 1-year supply of Humira—the No. 1 selling brand-name drug that treats arthritis, psoriasis, and Crohn’s disease—was over $38,000. That is more than the annual median income for people in the State of Michigan.

The price of insulin has spiked in recent years, growing by 55 percent since 2014. That is simply outrageous, and it is simply unacceptable. Guided by the stories from Michigan families and medical professionals, I am working to examine and tackle the rising cost of prescription drugs.

Earlier this week, through my work as ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I announced I am conducting an investigation into the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. I am also investigating the growing shortages of critical medications affecting hospitals and patients throughout the country.

Unaffordable prescription and hospital-administered drugs—and the increasing number and length of drug shortages—have become an economic, national security, and public health crisis for Michigan, as well as for the rest of the country.

Through my investigation, I am working to: 1) identify solutions to address increasing drug costs; 2) evaluate the threat of drug shortages on patients; 3) examine the national security implications of our growing reliance on drugs manufactured overseas, primarily in China and India.

This investigation builds on some of my previous work, including my call for the Federal Drug Administration to share information on the Administration’s efforts to counter drug shortages—and my bill advancing in the Senate to lower healthcare costs for seniors through Medicare Part B. For many people in Michigan and across the country, being able to afford your medicine is a matter of life and death, and we must take action.

We must allow certainly for safe drug importation from Canada, but let me make one clear: Washington is not a solution. You need to be able to purchase affordable, quality, safe prescription drugs in the United States.

We must improve competition, end price gouging, increase price transparency, and hold drug companies accountable.

We must enable Medicare to negotiate drug prices for seniors. We must eliminate drug shortages to ensure that all patients can get the medication they need, and we must work to bring more affordable generic medications to the market.

Families in Michigan and across the country are counting on us. Families should never be forced to choose between paying their bills or getting the medication they need. But sadly, that is the choice that too many families are facing today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO PERRY GREEN
Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon, and that means it is one of my favorite times in the U.S. Senate because I get to come to the Senate floor and recognize an Alaskan who has done something that is great for our State, great for the community, great for the country—you name it. I come here and brag about somebody I represent in Alaska, and I call this person the Alaskan of the Week. I know the President’s Office likes it, and the pages certainly do.

What I like to do when I am starting this speech each week is talk to our visitors in the Gallery and people who are watching on TV to give a little update on what is going on in Alaska and encourage a visit. You will have the visit of a lifetime, guaranteed, if you come to Alaska.

I remember watching the troops head overseas, the wonderful parades. It all made me swell up with pride.

I would say that Perry Green is the most patriotic American I know, and we have a lot of patriots in Alaska.

He met his beautiful future wife, the beautiful Gloria, gracious Gloria, with whom he has been together ever since. As a matter of fact, that is 63 years of marriage. That is something to be celebrated. Perry said that marrying Gloria was the best decision he ever made. I know, Gloria, and I would certainly agree with Perry, and I would certainly agree with this: Like me, he definitely married up.

Like his father, he traveled back and forth to Washington State often for work. He went to Alaska to work on the Alaska Railroad in order to save enough money to buy Gloria a wedding ring. He served in the U.S. Army for 3 years, and eventually he and Gloria
made their way to our great State to forge a life together. They have been there ever since, and what a life they have lived.

Initially, Perry worked at his father’s store in downtown Anchorage, but soon he broke out on his own and started the Anchorage Fur Trading Company, which became the largest fur dealer in Alaska, and it was wildly successful. He traveled all across the State—300 villages in all, some of them multiple times—buying furs from the locally traveled by dog team, sled, by snow machine, by bush plane, and everywhere he went he was greeted warmly and generously by people in rural Alaska in these villages. He said: “I learned so much from the Alaska Native people. I was in awe of their kindness, their respect for elders, and their rich, cultural heritage.”

That time in rural Alaska was one of the best times of his life and laid the foundation for what has been one of Perry Green’s biggest loves—our State, the great State of Alaska, which he has given his all to.

His company, David Green Master Furrer, is an iconic business in downtown Anchorage because they sell some of the best and most beautiful furs around, no doubt, but also because of Perry and his extended family, who have done such a great job of running the company for decades.

My daughters and I have a little tradition. We head over to this great store and look for something to buy my wife, their mom. It is a fun, fun tradition that we do.

Perry has been the face of the store for decades. People still remember his quirky commercials featuring tanrutas, huge athletes chasing him around, and always the tagline, “If you don’t know your furs, know your furrir.”

It seems that all of Anchorage and so much of Alaska know their furrir. It should be noted that they also know this Alaska furrier in Las Vegas as well. Perry Green is a very good poker player and has won three World Series of Poker bracelets and has made it to the final table of the World Series of Poker main event in Vegas two times. How about that for an adventurous life?

It wasn’t just his store and Perry’s love of a good poker game that has endeared many Alaskans. A man of deep faith, he is one of the most generous people in my State and one of the most committed Alaskans to public service and helping others. “I never was interested in being rich,” Perry said. “I wanted to do something positive for other people because that’s the greatest thing you can do.”

He has sat on nearly every board there is. You name it—the taxicab commission, the insurance board, the planning board, the symphony and opera board, the Rotary board, and a member of the Elks Club, the Masons, the Alaska Jewish Campus and Museum. The list goes on and on in terms of his service.

He also raises money for numerous causes. “I can’t think of a fundraising effort that his name isn’t a part of,” his longtime friend Gordon Glaser said about Perry.

Perry is especially generous in causes that raise money for our men and women in uniform. On the eve of Veterans Day, we can’t thank him enough for that.

“Anyone who’s been in Anchorage in the last two generations knows that if you need something done, Perry will do it,” his friend Gordon said.

If you are down on your luck or if you need a job, need a place to stay, or need some assistance, Perry will help. Every community, every State, has leaders like this. We all know those types of people. They are very special, and he is one of them.

Perry and his wife Gloria are also personally generous with their house—a lively, happy place open to people all across our State and, really, the world. Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, another longtime friend of Perry’s, credits him for teaching him and so many others “how to be an Alaskan.” What does that mean? According to Mayor Berkowitz, it means that he brought the spirit of Tikkun Olam to Alaska. That is a Hebrew phrase meaning healing the world. Perry has brought this to our State one generous act at a time, one community at a time.

Perry and Gloria will be honored at Alaska’s Jewish Gala next week—one of our State’s most fun and memorable events. It will be next Saturday evening, and I will be there for sure. It is a time when we all can gather together, celebrate the vital role the Jewish community has played in our great State, and be reminded that Alaska is a place where we can all come together, care of each other the way the Greens have been doing for decades.

Rabbi Yosef Greenberg, a good friend of mine and another extremely generous man so precious to our State, says that the mission of the Alaska Jewish Campus that Perry Green has been so generous to is “Warming up Alaska!”

“In the 60 years of Alaska’s statehood,” said Rabbi Greenberg, “Perry Green has warmed up Alaska, not only with his David Green fur coats but even more so with the joys of his life, big heart, and lending a hand to ordinary Alaskans and anyone in need.” That is how he has warmed up our great State.

Perry and Gloria have done so much for Alaska. They are highly deserving of this recognition which they will be receiving at the Jewish Gala next week. Congratulations to them and their 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and all of the extended Green family, so many of whom continue to serve our community so well.

Perry, from your friend, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 30 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a great sadness that Marcelle and I learned of the passing of Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina on October 28. I have served in the U.S. Senate with nearly 400 Senators. Like many of them, Senator Hagan fought day and day out for her constituents in North Carolina and for the ideals and morals on which our country was founded.

Senator Hagan followed a line of public service in the Hagan family. Her father, her brother Andy, and her uncle, Lawton Chiles, represented Florida here in the U.S. Senate. Recognizing the sacrifice and importance of our Nation’s service members, Senator Hagan was a tireless advocate for our military members and their families. During her time in the Senate, she was an active partner in our efforts to strengthen the National Guard, and she authored such important legislative initiatives as the Hire a Hero Act. She was also a tireless advocate for women and children, for efforts to support victims of crime, and for the advancement of civil rights. Her tenure in the Senate, in my view, was too short.

After Senator Hagan’s work in the Senate, she went on to become a senior policy consultant for Akin Gump, where she held a particular focus on the health and financial services sectors. Additionally, in 2015, Senator Hagan became a resident fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University, where she studied the influence money has in our politics. She said, “I worry how we are going to get good people to run for office if you have to spend so much time raising money.” I agree. Our public servants at every level of our government should be more focused on advocating for their constituents, rather than raising a war chest to fight against wealthy corporate interests, pressure groups, or dark money influencers.

Her tragic affliction with Powassan virus, which ultimately led to her passing last month, robbed us of Senator Hagan’s dedication to public service far too soon. It was also a stark reminder of how precious our time really is.

I know Marcelle and I join with North Carolinians and our Senate family in mourning the passing of Senator Hagan. Our hearts go out to Chip, their
children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie, and the entire Hagan family. Our prayers are with Kay, as we mourn this dedicated public servant.

REMEMBERING JOHN CONYERS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember John James Conyers, Jr., of Detroit, MI, the longest serving Black Congressman in history and a champion for civil rights and social justice. Sadly, Mr. Conyers passed away last week at the age of 90. Mr. Conyers was passionate about serving his country and his constituents, always fighting for those without a voice.

Mr. Conyers was born in Detroit, MI on May 16, 1929, to John and Lucille Conyers. After graduating from Northwestern High School, Mr. Conyers worked as a welder for Lincoln automotive while attending Wayne State University. He also served in the Michigan National Guard before enlisting in the U.S. Army during the Korean war, where he served as a second lieutenant. After 4 years of service, he was honorably discharged and returned to Wayne State University to obtain his bachelor's degree in 1957 and his law degree in 1958.

In 1958, Mr. Conyers continued his life of service as a legal aide to Representative John Dingell, Jr., of Detroit. He then ran for Congress in 1964 and 1966, where he served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 51 years, representing metro Detroit in a career full of many historic firsts for civil rights and the Black community.

Mr. Conyers was on the frontlines of the civil rights movement. He was a co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma, AL to advocate for equal rights. In 1967, during the civil unrest in Detroit, Mr. Conyers was in the streets, encouraging peace and an end to the rioting. After the tragic assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, Mr. Conyers introduced legislation to forever remember Dr. King's legacy with a Federal holiday. He reintroduced his bill every session until it was signed into law in 1983. He also hired civil rights legend Rosa Parks to work in his Detroit office, where she stayed for over 20 years.

In Congress, Mr. Conyers was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and also served on and was chairman of the House Oversight Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. By the end of his service, he was the longest serving African-American Congressman in history, as well as the dean of the House of Representatives.

As an activist, trailblazer, and leader, Mr. Conyers will be greatly missed across Michigan, as he touched the lives of many people throughout Michigan. Mr. Conyers is survived by his wife of 29 years, Monica, and his two sons, John and Carl.

Mr. President, I cannot express enough the impact Mr. John Conyers, Jr., had on the city of Detroit and the State of Michigan. He was a pillar of our community and a model of humble leadership. His passion and tenacity will be missed. However, I am confident his legacy will continue to inspire others to serve and fight for justice and equality for all.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans and their families every day. As we approach the 101st Veterans Day on Monday, I want to take a moment to pay special tribute to the men and women who serve in uniform in defense of our great Nation, its people, and our values.

Progress usually is a good thing, but sometimes it comes with frightful consequences. The industrial revolution wove weapons and tactics that enabled humankind to wage war and carnage upon itself at a level never before seen. By the end of World War I, there were approximately 40 million military and civilian casualties. Yet World War II predicted it would be "the war to end war." Tragically, that was not the case.

The United States played an instrumental role in ending World War I, then known as the Great War. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, Germany signed an armistice with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiegne, France. One hundred years ago, on November 11, 1919—exactly 1 year after the signing of the armistice with Germany—President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first "Armistice Day" to commemorate the day. On that occasion, he stated: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

Maryland played a critical role in ending that conflict with victory. Prominent installations such as Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Grounds rapidly trained and deployed troops to Europe, and about 2,000 Marylanders heroically fought on the line "Armistice One" while the Commander-in-Chief is on board, and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, which has been training midshipmen since 1845.

We honor all those men and women who have endeavored to protect our country and preserve our democracy so that Americans may live free from tyranny. Maryland is fortunate to be home to about 371,000 military veterans. These servant-leaders live amongst us as schoolteachers, small business owners, homemakers, public servants and most every other profession and they continue to give back to our communities.

Let us all honor our veterans on this solemn day and every day by holding the values they fought so gallantly to defend and by providing them with the benefits they earned through blood, sweat, courage, and perseverance.

On this Veterans Day, I join all Americans in thanking our veterans for their service, their sacrifice, and for being role models for future generations of Americans who will pick up the mantle of defending our great country.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on this Veterans Day 2019, I wish to pay tribute to all veterans and thank them for their service. The freedoms we enjoy in America today are because of them.

For more than 200 years, our veterans have fought across the globe defending our freedoms, while their families waited and worried at home. Thanks to them, the forces of tyranny and oppression have been turned back and defeated time and again.

As Americans across the Nation come together on Veterans Day, I will be participating in a program in Fargo,
of many being held in communities across North Dakota. Next Wednesday in Williston, several military organizations and Williston State College will sponsor a presentation by Medal of Honor recipient SSG Clinton Romesha. As one of only 3,507 recipients in American history to receive this honor, Staff Sergeant Romesha was the fourth living Medal of Honor recipient for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. It was presented in 2013 for his heroism during the Battle of Kamdesh in October 2009, a 12-hour battle that was significant in the Global War on Terrorism.

During this intense attack by some 300 Taliban fighters, despite his own shrapnel wounds, Romesha continued to fight. His actions helped mount a successful counterattack that eliminated Taliban machine guns and allowed for wounded soldiers to be taken to an aid station.

In his bestselling memoir, “Red Platoon: A True Story of American Valor,” Romesha shares the account of the Battle of Kamdesh and how one person can make a difference against seemingly impossible odds.

Now a resident of Minot, ND, he travels extensively as a motivational speaker, sharing the message about how the capacity for leadership and bravery resides within everyone.

I commend Williston State College and its Foundation, the Williston Basin Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, Williston Post 37 of the American Legion, Military Affairs Committee, VFW–Post 12169, and Williston Chapter 9 of the Disabled American Veterans for bringing this inspirational message by a true hero to their community.

Mr. President, on this Veterans Day, may we be reminded to be thankful every day for all who serve our country. May God bless all veterans and their families. They are all heroes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TODD PORTUNE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Todd Portune, a dedicated public servant, who has spent his career serving the people of Cincinnati with dedication and enthusiasm. Commissioner Portune is retiring from politics following this term after more than a quarter century of service, and I know how much he will be missed by the people of Southwest Ohio.

Commissioner Portune was born in Cincinnati and from an early age was known for his work ethic. Throughout his education, Commissioner Portune remained in Ohio, graduating from Colerain High School, Oberlin College, and serving as the president of the Student Bar Association at the University of Cincinnati Law School.

Commissioner Portune’s leadership embodies good government in action. He helped lead the way in improving public health, from working to reduce infant mortality to expanding oral and dental care. Through projects to increase housing and job opportunities and secure funding for local first responders, he consistently focused on what he believed to be the fundamental goal of public service: to improve people’s lives.

His service, from four terms in Cincinnati City Council to six terms as Hamilton County commissioner, inspired many to stand up for what they believe in. Commissioner Portune’s fight for human rights will be a lasting part of his legacy. He advocated for LGBTQ rights before it was popular, and he always supported disability inclusion, those battling with addiction, and people without a voice in government.

His political triumphs can only be matched by this incredible personal tenacity throughout every obstacle thrown his way. But no matter what, he focused on serving the people in his beloved county.

Commissioner Portune will be remembered for his good humor, passion for public service, and strength to endure the challenges of all kinds. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service to our community and our State.

TRIBUTE TO DR. W. MARK DONALD

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Dr. W. Mark Donald, who has been elected as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, where he will serve a 3-year term. Dr. Donald has long been a leader in the dental community in Mississippi, and I look forward to seeing his success in this position with the American Dental Association, ADA.

A native of Louisville, MS, Dr. Donald graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in 1988. Following graduation, he completed his general practice residency program with the VA Medic Center and the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in Jackson, MS. In 1990, Dr. Donald opened his general dentistry practice in Louisville, MS. For three decades, Dr. Donald has been very active in the dental community in Mississippi. He has served as speaker, president, and as an ADA delegate for the Mississippi Dental Association. In addition, he served as speaker and president of the Academy of General Dentistry and as president of the Academy of General Dentistry Foundation.

His other experience includes serving as a member of the ADA Council on Dental Practice in 2018; as chair, vice chair, secretary/treasurer, and parliam-entarian of the ADA District 3; and as Mississippi’s Delegate to the National Dental Association’s Project chair in 2011, 2013, and 2019. Since 2015, Dr. Donald has taught the next generation of Mississippi dentists as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. In 2017, Governor Phil Bryant appointed Dr. Donald to serve on the Mississippi Board of Dental Examiners, where he still currently serves.

As Dr. Donald’s contributions, dedicated service, and commitment to excellence have made a difference for dentists and dental patients across my State. In his new role serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, I believe he will continue to make a significant impact in bettering the dental profession and improving the lives of patients across the nation.

Mr. President, Mississippi is extremely proud to have Dr. Mark Donald serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association. He has my appreciation and gratitude for all he has done for the great state of Mississippi. I wish Dr. Donald, and his family, all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE ROCK GALLERY

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the successes of a small business in my home State of Idaho. However, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11, this month I will honor a veteran-owned small business for each of the 10 days the Senate is in legislative session. The personal sacrifices made by America’s veterans have protected the very freedoms and values that give each of us and our children the ability to achieve the American dream. The skills veterans learn as members of the military are invaluable and undoubtedly contribute to Idaho’s veteran business community. I am proud of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our country and that they are choosing Idaho to call home when they complete their service in the military.

As your U.S. Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Eagle Rock Gallery in Idaho Falls as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 7, 2019.

Eagle Rock Gallery opened 6 months ago in Idaho Falls. It is owned and operated by U.S. Army veterans Gary Jensen and his wife, Kathi Cheyenne Jensen. The Jensens opened the gallery to host a collection of nationally and internationally recognized fine artists. The gallery includes a portrait studio, where clients can schedule portrait sessions for their families, friends, and even pets. In addition, the gallery features a variety of art available for purchase.

Kathi Cheyenne Jensen is an award-winning photographer known for her patriotic images, specifically those that feature bald eagles. The Jensens
seek to honor veterans who, like themselves, have sacrificed for American freedom. Recently, the gallery held a fundraiser with proceeds going to support local veterans in Idaho Falls.

Congratulations to Gary and Kathi Cheyney and all of the artists at Eagle Rock Gallery for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 7, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES LONG

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I congratulate a former staff member of mine, James Long, on his recent promotion to colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Jim served for a year as an Air Force fellow on my staff back in 2011. He worked hard and did a great job for us as we worked to make sure the men and women of the military were properly funded, organized, trained, and equipped. Jim was always helpful with respect to intelligence community issues, having previously served as a senior special agent at the Central Intelligence Agency’s Office of the Inspector General, where he conducted and oversaw investigations of CIA officers and contractor personnel.

After leaving my office, he went on to work with the Air Force’s Office of Special Investigations as the chief of the Crime Integration Desk, as well as being an individual mobilization augmentee to the Commander of the Investigations Collections Operations Nexus Center at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Last year, while continuing his work in the Air Force Reserve, Jim was hired by the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General to build its first Major Frauds and Corruption Unit. He currently oversees large-scale criminal investigations and has put together a team of anti-fraud professionals, including special agents, forensic auditors, forensic accountants, data scientists, and analysts, to investigate and uncover significant fraud schemes. His team was also an integral part of the recent high-profile fraud schemes. His team was also an integral part of the recent high-profile fraud schemes. His team was also an integral part of the recent high-profile fraud schemes. His team was also an integral part of the recent high-profile fraud schemes.

Jim has had a long and distinguished career in the military, where he has served for over 26 years. He first served for 4 years in the Marine Corps, and after going to college, he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he has risen through the ranks to his current position as colonel.

Jim continues to have a stellar career serving the Nation, including being deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, in 2008, where he commanded 57 combat missions.

Again, I wish to congratulate Colonel Long on his promotion and wish him and his family the very best as he continues to serve our Nation, both in his capacities at the Air Force Reserve and at the Department of Homeland Security.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY A. LUSK

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay MG Gregory A. Lusk, the Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard, for his many years of service to the great State of North Carolina.

Major General Lusk has served as the 40th Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard with distinction for nearly a decade. Major General Lusk’s adept leadership over the roughly 11,500 citizen soldiers and airmen serving in the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard has been prominently displayed during the multiple harrowing natural disasters that have struck North Carolina in recent years.

In 2016, Major General Lusk oversaw a massive mobilization of N.C. Guardsmen prior to the landfall of Hurricane Florence. During the ensuing deployment, 3,400 N.C. Guardsmen assisted local, State, and Federal disaster response teams on hundreds dangerous search and rescue operations vital missions to provide lifesaving relief to evacuated families. In total, more than 1,300 North Carolinians were safely evacuated from dangerous floodwaters due to the effective command of Major General Lusk and the efforts of the North Carolina National Guard.

The tireless leadership of Major General Lusk has been invaluable during the numerous overseas deployments, stateside military exercises, and natural disaster responses that the North Carolina National Guard has participated in since his appointment to adjutant general in 2010. Major General Lusk’s contribution to advancing the overall readiness and operational capabilities of the North Carolina National Guard has been critical in maintaining an effective and resilient Reserve Force. Through operations including Hurricane Irene, Matthew, Florence, and Dorian, Major General Lusk has ensured that the men and women of the Guard had the utmost preparation and training for every mission that they embarked on.

Major General Lusk selflessly served the state of North Carolina and our Nation for almost 40 years. Following his commissioning through the Reserve Officer Training Program at North Carolina State University in 1982, Major General Lusk stationed throughout the State and around the world as he rose from a second lieutenant to a major general. Major General Lusk was mobilized twice to Iraq as both an executive officer and a commander of the North Heavy Brigade Combat Team, commanding 4,000 North Carolina Guardsmen in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a U.S. Senator, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and a North Carolinian, I am pleased to congratulate Major General Gregory Lusk on his retirement, for his impressive career of military service and steadfast commitment to our country.

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

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 Energy and Natural Resources.

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

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–3120. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dinofuran; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption” (FRL No. 10000–96) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 4, 2019, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3121. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pyropyzamide; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions” (FRL No. 10000–50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President on November 4, 2019, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3122. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Tebucazon; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 10001–27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President on November 4, 2019, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3123. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael D. Lundy, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3124. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Modification of DFARS Clause ‘Protection Against Compromising Emanations’” (RIN 0750–AK52) (DFARS Case 2019–D651) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President on November 1, 2019, to the Committee on Armed Services.
EC–3125. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendments to the Advanced Projects Agency, Privacy Act of 1974” (RIN0790–AK50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3126. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Company-Run Stress Testing Requirements for FDIC-Supervised State Nonmember Banks and State Savings Associations” (RIN2106–AC61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3127. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prudential Standards for Large Bank Holding Companies, Savings and Loan Holding Companies, and Foreign Banking Organizations” (RIN0360–AC45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3128. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Illinois; NAAQS Update” (FRL No. 10001–88–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3129. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona” (FRL No. 10001–65–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3130. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards of Performance for Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines” (RIN0205–93–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3131. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards of Performance for Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines” (RIN0205–89–OA1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3132. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled “Department of Homeland Security 2019 Privacy Office Annual Report to Congress” (RIN0565–93–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3133. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class C Airspace; Huntsville, AL.” (RIN22120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0816) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3134. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” (RIN22120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0492) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3135. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” (RIN22120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0680) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3136. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” (RIN22120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0680) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3137. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” (RIN22120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0680) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3138. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” (RIN22120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0823) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3139. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” (RIN22120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0766) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3140. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN22120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0523) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PTETIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

SOM–151. A resolution adopted by the Sena- tate of the State of Alaska requesting the United States Congress to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a close tri-lateral relationship between the United States, Can- ada, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, politically, and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to $1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have also tripled, rising from $27.5 billion in 1993 to $91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement’s new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent the first or second largest export market, and all but one state counts Canada or Mex- ico as a top three trading partner. Canada is Michigan’s largest export market, and Mex- ico is Michigan’s third largest export market. NAFTA has also contributed to a 300 percent increase in Michigan’s agricultural ex- ports. And Canada and Mexico are the top two export destinations for U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises, more than
125,000 of which sold their goods and services in Canada and Mexico in 2014; and

Whereas, Trade among our North American trading partners is made up predominately of intellectual property (IP) intensive goods and services that employ millions of Americans in high paying jobs and generate billions in new economic output. However, many of the IP-intensive goods, services, and exchanges through which trade is facilitated did not exist when the agreement was drafted; the integration of the three North American NAFTA and the USMCA will ensure that the global economy; and

the Michigan economy, remains a leader in the automotive industry, which is fundamental to the United States and ensure that the U.S. auto industry will continue to thrive by creating millions of well-paying manufacturing jobs. The renegotiated USMCA has provisions favorable to U.S. autoworkers that would help level the playing field between U.S. and Mexican autoworkers. The updated agreement is also more beneficial to the agricultural sector than NAFTA and will offer a higher degree of certainty and stability to Michigan farmers. The new IP provisions are the most advantageous of any multilateral U.S. trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; and

Whereas, The USMCA is a win for all three countries. It will modernize North American trade, reduce uncertainty by setting the rules for every player, encourage investment and innovation, and support millions of well-paying manufacturing jobs. The USMCA will also encourage automotive research and development investments in the United States and ensure that the U.S. automotive industry, which is fundamental to the Michigan economy, remains a leader in the global economy; and

Whereas, a seamless transition between NAFTA and the USMCA will ensure that none of the benefits in trade accomplished by the integration of the three North American economies will be lost; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Congress of the United States to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–153. A resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rhinebeck, New York urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–154. A resolution adopted by the Select Board of the Town of North Hampton, New Hampshire urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–155. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Town of Red Hook, New York urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–156. A resolution adopted by the Commission of the Caddo Parish, Louisiana urging the United States Congress to protect funding for local public health services and prevention programs made possible by the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 867. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Noy Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the “Ritchie Valens Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1256. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Christopher R. Hults Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1526. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 772 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office”.

H.R. 3253. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1104 Main Street in Morrisdale, Pennsylvania, as the “Pompey Volunteer Fire Department Post Office Building”.

S. 2712. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the “Sixth Infantry Regiment Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3144. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the “Jose Ramos Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3144. A bill 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”.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary,

Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

John M. Gallagher, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Silvia Carreno-Coll, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. 2807. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the quality of care furnished by hospice programs under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORGAN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. JONES, Mr. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKERT, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HINCHLIFF, and Ms. CORTES-MASTO):

S. 2808. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1941, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2809. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a surtax on high
income individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ):
S. 2810. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to pay electronic or Subsidies to eligible persons when educational institutions are temporarily closed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. WARRIORS)
S. 2811. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to pay electronic or Subsidies to eligible persons when educational institutions are temporarily closed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKA)
S. 2812. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN)
S. 2813. A bill to establish a CBP Hiring and Retention Innovation Council to develop ideas and initiatives to improve U.S. Customs and Border Protection hiring and retention efforts and capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY)
S. 2814. A bill to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CRAZER, Mr. ENHOF, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. DUCKWORTH)
S. 2815. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO)
S. 2816. A bill to ensure that fixed broadband internet access service assisted by any Federal broadband support program meets a minimum speed threshold; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DURKIN)
S. 2817. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an annual report on Federal health programs for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Tester
S. 2818. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations to ban the venting and flaring of gas in oil and gas production operations in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SCHUMER
S. 2819. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the income-based limitations for the Lifetime Learning Credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ALEXANDER)
S. 2820. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, to revise section 91.145 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, such that the term “sporting” does not limit the types of major events described in such section; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. WARREN)
S. 2821. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow a veteran to receive a full year supply of contraceptive pills, transdermal patches and vaginal rings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH
S. 2822. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and maintain a suicide risk management and prevention and lethal means training course for certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HENRICH)
S. 2823. A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Las Cruces, New Mexico, as the “Las Cruces Bataan Memorial Clinic”; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. LEAHY)
S. 2824. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH
S. 2825. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain training or vocational rehabilitation for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RUINO, and Mr. COONS)
S. 2826. A bill to require a global economic security strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER)
S. 2827. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. WYDEN)
S. 2828. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement allowing for adaptive management of certain Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER
S. 2829. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to enhance the ability of direct broadcast satellite providers to offer additional local broadcast services to consumers under limited circumstances, and for other purposes; 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. JONES (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):
S. Res. 410. A resolution establishing a McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program in the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ROONEY (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):
S. Res. 411. A resolution affirming that States maintain primacy in regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands, that the President has no authority to declare a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing on State and private lands, and that the President should not attempt to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf) or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe, unless the moratorium is authorized by law; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUINO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. WARREN)
S. Res. 412. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as “National Family Service Learning Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASHDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. INHOOF, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FESTIN, Mr. MORGAN, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOGER, Ms. KAINR, Ms. ERNST, Mr. JONES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. MCSALLY)
S. Res. 413. A resolution designating the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as “National Veterans Small Business Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. Udall, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. Tester, Mr. Rounds, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARREN, Mr. CRAP, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. McSALLY, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KING, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KAINR, Mr. KAINR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SULLIVAN)
S. Res. 414. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. WARREN (for herself, Ms. MCASLTY, Ms. MCASLTY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HASSAN, and Mrs. CAPITO))
S. Res. 415. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp series honoring women veterans of the Armed Forces that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that stamp series honor the work of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURKIN, and Mr. CRUS)
ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 206

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the “Hello Girls”.

S. 229

At the request of Mr. Whitehouse, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in importing and distributing contraband electronic nicotine delivery systems, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes.

S. 287

At the request of Mr. Toomey, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose limitations on the authority of the President to adjust imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. Schatz, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a cosponsor of S. 401, a bill to allow veterinarians to use, possess, or transport medical marijuana and to discuss the use of medical marijuana with a physician of the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized by a State or Indian Tribe, and for other purposes.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. Warner, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) were added as cosponsors of S. 469, 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. 514

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) 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. 595

At the request of Mr. Carper, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight”.

S. 655

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 765

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) was added as a cosponsor of S. 800, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. Toomey, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. Scott) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 804

At the request of Mr. Brown, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. Casey, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) were added as cosponsors of S. 892, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

S. 995

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to re-authorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

S. 1022

At the request of Mr. Portman, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Johnson), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Manchin) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. Coons, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Schatz) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 1233

At the request of Ms. Feinstein, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed) were added as cosponsors of S. 1253, a bill to require requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1374

At the request of Ms. McSally, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1399

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons), the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) were added as cosponsors of S. 1399, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs.

S. 1599

At the request of Mr. Udall, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1499, a bill to establish National Wildlife Corridors to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes.

S. 1599

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from Washington...
(Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1609

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1606, a bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. CRYSTAL), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. GILLibrand) and the Senator from New Jersey (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSALLY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. HIRONUMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to provide for the implementation of a comprehensive national suicide prevention strategy.

S. 1766

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1766, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2020 through 2022 to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through bilateral compact programs to increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities and reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 2012

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2012, a bill to provide that certain Federal Communications Commission shall have no force or effect.

S. 2230

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2230, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State and Indian tribe grants for community colleges and universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2234

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2234, 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 Labor to make it easier for multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to improve the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, and for other purposes.

S. 2563

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2563, a bill to require the establishment of a National Science Board and for other purposes.

S. 2629

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2629, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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.

S. 2651

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2651, a bill to amend title XVIII, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide life insurance for spouses and children on certain headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives by investing in effective violence reduction initiatives.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2695, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the Agriculture Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and for other purposes.

S. 2701

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2701, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 2707

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2707, a bill to provide for a regional center for security studies for the Arctic in the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2712

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2711, a bill to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing-related misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government.

S. 2730

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2740, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, and for other purposes.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr.
RUBIO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2777, a bill to assist States, tribes, territories, counties, and cities in implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2777

At the request of Mrs. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2777, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to role into the United States certain relatives of current and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2805

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2805, a bill to improve transit-oriented development financing, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mrs. BLACKHUN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) 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.

S. RES. 292

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 292, a resolution calling on the President of the United States and the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

S. RES. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKET) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 305, a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 408, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Members of Congress and their staffs, employees of the Executive Office of the President and executive branch agencies, and the President of the United States have a duty to protect the identities of whistleblowers and safeguard whistleblower from retaliation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. GILLBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2815. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2815

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Purple Heart Honor Mission Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The mission of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission is—

(A) to commemorate the extraordinary sacrifice of servicemembers of the United States who were killed or wounded by enemy action; and

(B) to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across generations to ensure that all recipients are represented.


(3) The National Purple Heart Honor Mission is colocated with the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site.

(4) The National Purple Heart Mission estimates 1,800,000 service members of the United States were wounded or killed in action representing recipients from the Civil War to the present day, serving as a living memorial to their sacrifice by sharing their stories through interviews, exhibits, and the Roll of Honor, an interactive computer database of each recipient enrolled.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) Designation of Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) $5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 $5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.35 grams; and

(B) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) $1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams; and

(B) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams; and

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) Legal Tender.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) Numismatic Items.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.

(a) Designs Requirements.—

(1) In general.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the mission of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.

(2) Designation and Inscriptions.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin; and

(B) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

(b) Selection.—The designs for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(A) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc.; and

(B) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) Quality of Coins.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) Period for Issuance.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2022.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) Sale Price.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins; and

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) Bulk Sales.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) Prepaid Orders.—

(1) In General.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) Discount.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

(d) Issuance of Coins.—

(a) in General.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

(1) $5 per coin for the $5 coin;

(2) $10 per coin for the $1 coin; and

(3) $5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) Distribution.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc. to support the mission of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc., including capital improvements to the National Purple Heart Honor Mission facilities.

(c) Audits.—The National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc. shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) Limitation.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act).
By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2817. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an annual reference price for insulin products for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, Canadian Michael Bliss writes in his 1982 book, "The Discovery of Insulin," that "[w]ith insulin, the stone was rolled away, and diabetes became a matter of the quality of life, not speed of death."

For thousands of years, human beings have battled diabetes. When the pancreas stops producing insulin, all kinds of bad things happen—heart attacks, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, foot disease, foot amputations, small blood vessels throughout the body being impacted by that high blood sugar. In some cases, within months, individuals waste away, fall into diabetic comas, and die.

All that changed about a century ago thanks to the work of four Canadian scientists—Frederick Banting, Charles Best, J.B. Collip, and John MacLeod. These four men discovered how to extract, develop, and refine a pure form of insulin that could be injected into the body to change the course of the disease.

Thirty million Americans—almost 10 percent, 9.4 percent, of the American population live with type 1 or type 2 diabetes today. Of those 30 million, 7.4 million depend on insulin for their survival, but one-quarter of the people who depend on insulin for their survival have had to ration their insulin in the past year because of the extraordinary, over-the-Moon cost of this drug that was developed a century ago.

Rationing the drug, and therefore producing episodes or enduring levels of high blood sugar, has extensive health consequences. It does a lot of damage. Diabetic Americans are being gouged by the drug companies, and it needs to stop.

Today I am introducing, in partnership with Senator DURBIN, the End Price Gouging for Insulin Act to end this egregious practice. I want to ensure that every single one of those 7.4 million Americans who need insulin to survive has access to insulin. I want to tell you that vision of every person having affordable insulin, we will go after you in every which way. We have more lawyers than you have, and we have deeper pockets than you have. So good luck.

The result is a continuation of the outrageous practice. It is a continuation of the outrageous price gouging of Americans. A quarter of those 7.4 million Americans who need insulin to treat their diabetes are rationing their prescriptions. Sometimes that means just straight out skipping the doses altogether.

Folks from Oregon have written to me, people like Richard from Beaverton, OR.

Richard needs three lifesaving medications to get by, including the insulin Humalog, which costs over $1,800 a year. Richard doesn't have $1,800 to spare. He is 77 years old, blind, and recently finished chemo treatments for bladder cancer. Through it all, he has continued to work odd jobs to supplement his Social Security disability checks to put food on the table for him and his wife, to be able to keep their house, and try to pay for those prescriptions.

Another constituent whom I will call Antonio is 58 years old and is living with type 1 diabetes. Like many others, he has trouble affording the prescription. Antonio either uses insulin samples that he finds in his truck, which are about 10 years old, or he rations the insulin that he does have to make it last until his monthly disability check comes in, which is when he can afford to get a new refill on the prescription.

This is a terrible strategy for managing an illness. It has led to hospital stays, diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, visual impairment, and other diabetes-related ailments. Yet, from Antonio's perspective, what can he do? He can't afford the massive price increases that these major drug companies have put on insulin. As for the generic he would like to buy, those same companies are blocking it from coming to market.

There is also Maria. Maria has sores on her feet because of her diabetes. She has been to the emergency room several times for foot infections. It turns out that her feet keep getting infected because she is forgoing her insulin to be able to afford basic necessities for her family—food, the cost of her housing, and transportation.

It turns out Maria's insurance doesn't cover the $50 copay on diabetic shoes or her insulin or the injection pen that she needs to reduce her insulin needs, all of which would have reduced or eliminated the need for Maria to go to the emergency room. Yet her insurance does cover the emergency room visits. So, time and again, we see not only are we not getting the medicine, that is where Maria ends up.

Another Oregonian whom I will call Phillip is living with type 2 diabetes. He said he takes less insulin than his doctor has prescribed. Why? He isn't able to afford the prescription. Yet Phillip doesn't want his provider to know any of this, because he is embarrassed about it. So his blood sugars are
Are we here to protect greed for these Americans who cannot afford $61 for Lantus? In the United Kingdom, it is $64. In the United States, it is $73. That is six times the median price of the drug in these other developed nations.

Why don’t we insist that the companies that get all kinds of benefits from being here in America sell to Americans at the median price or at the average price—either one—which is what they sell to the rest of the developed world? Why is it a fair price for every other country, but it is gouging for Americans?

Americans pay the price. Those who have diabetes but who cannot afford that insulin will ration it and start to see the devastating impacts on their bodies and minds, to the kidneys, to the vision, to the feet, to the heart disease. Then they end up in the hospital, as well, with there being more costs to the U.S. healthcare system. Don’t we care about the health of Americans? Are we here to protect greed for these companies or the health of Americans?

Senator Durbin and I have introduced a bill that says you can’t charge more in America than the reference price charged in key developed countries around the world—Canada, Australia, Japan—or charge more than the median price in the group of eight of the largest European nations. It doesn’t even have to be the lowest price in the world under this formulation. This is called a reference price bill, wherein we essentially attach ourselves to the fair prices charged to the rest of the world.

The drug companies will say: We want to make more money so we can do more research.

Well, raise your price on these other countries while you are dropping the price for the United States. That is a pretty simple solution that ends the price gouging in the United States of America.

If a company violates this reference price, then it pays a fine of 10 times the difference between the reference price and the price it charges Americans. Where does that money go? It goes to the research and development of new drug products in our bill.

That is the vision. There is no reason that Americans should be paying six times the median price of other developed countries—six times. This is not 6 percent more or 60 percent more, which would be outrageous. This is six times the price charged to other developed countries.

It is way past time that we stood up for the American people, not the greed of the pharmaceutical companies. It is way past time that we stood up for sick Americans like Richard and Antonio and Maria and Phillip and millions more in every one of our States. Millions of Americans are forced to ration their insulin or skip doses altogether because of corporate greed. It is way past time to end the price gouging of American citizens.

Let’s put this bill on the floor, and let’s pass this bill for our citizens across this great land.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 410—ESTABLISH A MCCAIN-MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN THE SENATE**

Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

Resolved,

SECTION 1. MCCAIN-MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions.—In this resolution—

(1) the term "eligible military veteran" means a veteran, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, that meets any eligibility requirements established by the Secretary for participation in the program under this section; and

(2) the term "Sergeant at Arms" means the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

(b) Establishment of Fellowship Program.—

(1) In General.—From amounts made available to carry out this section, the Sergeant at Arms shall establish a program through which eligible military veterans may apply for and participate in a fellowship position under this section, determined by the Sergeant at Arms in the judgment of the Sergeant at Arms.

(2) Designation.—The program established under paragraph (1) shall be referred to as the "McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program".

(c) Duration, Number, Distribution, and Amount of Fellowships.—

(1) Duration.—A McCain-Mansfield Fellowship shall be for a 2-year period.

(2) Number and Distribution of Fellowships.—Subject to the availability of appropriations—

(A) the Sergeant at Arms shall award not more than 100 McCain-Mansfield Fellowships; and

(B) the Sergeant at Arms shall distribute the McCain-Mansfield Fellowships under this section for an award period in a manner that provides not less than 1 Fellowship position for each Senator wishing to participate in the program.

(3) Amount of financial assistance.—The Sergeant at Arms shall determine the stipend or other financial assistance appropriate for each particular McCain-Mansfield Fellowship position under this section, depending on the duties of the position and the recommendations from the Senator offering the position.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 411—AFFIRMING THAT STATES MAINTAIN PRIMACY FOR THE REGULATION OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION ON STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON FEDERAL LANDS (INCLUDING THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF) OR LANDS HELD IN TRUST FOR AN INDIAN TRIBE, UNLESS THE MORATORIUM IS AUTHORIZED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS**

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Resolved. That—

(1) States maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands;

(2) the President has no authority to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on State and private lands, and

(3) the President should not attempt to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf) or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe, unless the moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 412—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2019, AS "NATIONAL FAMILY SERVICE LEARNING WEEK"**

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. WARREN)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 412

Whereas family service learning is a method under which children and families learn and solve problems together in a multi-generational approach with active participation in thoughtfully organized service that—

(1) is conducted in, and meets the needs of, their communities;

(2) is focused on children and families solving community issues together;

(3) requires the application of college and career readiness skills by children and relevant workforce training skills by adults; and

(4) is coordinated between the community and an elementary school, a secondary school, and a university or community college of higher education, or a family community service program;

Whereas family service learning—

(1) is multi-generational learning that involves parents, children, caregivers, and extended family members in shared learning experiences in physical and digital environments;

(2) is integrated into and enhances the academic achievement of children or the educational components of a family service program or project that may be enrolled in; and

(3) promotes skills (such as investigation, planning, and preparation), action, reflection, the demonstration of results, and sustainability;

Whereas family service learning has been shown to have positive 2-generational effects and encourages families to invest in their communities to improve economic and societal well-being;

Whereas, through family service learning, children and families have the opportunity to solve community issues and learn together, thereby enabling the development of life and career skills, such as flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility;

Whereas family service learning activities provide opportunities for families to improve essential skills, such as organization, research, planning, and writing, technological literacy, teamwork, and sharing;

Whereas families participating together in service are afforded quality time learning about their communities;

Whereas adults engaged in family service learning serve as positive role models for their children;

Whereas family service learning projects enable families to build substantive connections with their communities, develop a stronger sense of self-worth, experience a reduction in social isolation, and improve parenting skills;

Whereas family service learning has added benefits for English language learners by helping individuals and families to—

(1) feel more connected with their communities; and

(2) practice language skills;

Whereas family service learning is particularly beneficial for at-risk families because family service learning—

(1) provides opportunities for leadership and civic engagement; and

(2) helps build the capacity to advocate for the needs of children and families; and

Whereas the value that parents place on civic engagement and relationships within the community has been shown to transfer to children who, in turn, replicate important values, such as responsibility, empathy, and caring for others: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate, and the Standing Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives celebrate National Veterans Small Business Week during the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019; and

RESOLVED, That the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, would be an appropriate time to celebrate National Veterans Small Business Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate joins with the Small Business Administration in—

(1) designating the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as “National Veterans Small Business Week”;

(2) supporting the goals and ideals of National Veterans Small Business Week;

(3) celebrating the millions of individuals in the United States, especially veterans of the United States, and those veterans, who benefit from the programs of the Small Business Administration; and

(4) expressing appreciation for the continued service to the United States by the veterans of the United States through small business ownership and entrepreneurship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 413—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2019, AS “NATIONAL VETERANS SMAlL BUSINESS WEEK”

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. SHAH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. YOUNG, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Jones, Mr. Alexander, Ms. Sinema, Mr. Scott of South Carolina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Collins, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Daines, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Scott of Florida, Mr. Hawley, and Ms. McSally) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 413

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States train individuals with the skills, discipline, and leadership necessary to establish and operate a successful business; Whereas there are more than 2,500,000 veteran-owned small businesses in the United States, employing more than 5,000,000 individuals; Whereas veteran-owned businesses make up nearly 10 percent of all businesses in the United States; Whereas veterans account for more than $1,100,000,000,000 in business receipts every year; Whereas veterans are 45 percent more likely to be successful than non-veterans; Whereas business ownership by women veterans has increased significantly, from 97,114 in 2007 to 383,302 in 2012; Whereas the Small Business Administration of the Small Business Development of the Small Business Administration is dedicated to maximizing the availability and usability of small business programs for—

(1) veterans; and

(2) members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving on active duty; and

(4) the spouses, dependents, or survivors of those members and veterans;

Whereas the Small Business Administration annually serves more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans, veterans, members and veterans of the National Guard, members and veterans of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, and military spouses; Whereas the entrepreneurship training program of the Small Business Administration, Boots to Business, has trained more than 100,000 veteran entrepreneurs, and spouses of service members and veterans since launching in 2013;

SENATE RESOLUTION 414—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FLORES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. Binary, Mr. Tester, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Wicker, Ms. Warren, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. McSALLY, Ms. Smith, Mr. SCHUERER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HEINEMANN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HARASSO, Ms. KAIN, Mr. BOOER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 414

Whereas, from November 1, 2019, through November 30, 2019, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month; Whereas the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives celebrate National Veterans Small Business Week during the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019; and

Whereas, through family service learning, children and families have the opportunity to solve community issues and learn together, thereby enabling the development of life and career skills, such as flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility;
Tribal self-governance and self-determination and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—

(1) improving health care and law enforcement resources; and

(2) improving the housing and socioeconomic status of Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that the United States has maintained with the various Indian Tribes; Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that the United States has maintained with the various Indian Tribes; and

recognizes the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in drafting the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

recognizes the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

It is hereby resolved—

(1) reaffirms the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as ‘‘Native American Heritage Day’’; and

(3) recognizes the month of November 2019 as ‘‘National Native American Heritage Month’’.

It is hereby further resolved—

(1) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as ‘‘Native American Heritage Day’’ in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 2032); and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—CALLING FOR THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

While the people of the United States seek to strengthen relations with the People of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and ensure that they enjoy free and fair democratic elections in accordance with the will of the people of Cambodia and the fundamental freedoms of expression, association, and assembly;

Whereas there are approximately 2,000,000 women veterans of the Armed Forces living in the United States, who have served the United States with honor and distinction, yet the service of those women is often forgotten and they become ‘‘invisible veterans’’;

Whereas women veterans of the Armed Forces have made invaluable contributions to the United States since the American Revolution;

Whereas Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts and Margaret Corbin of New York served during the American Revolution and were wounded in combat, and Congress granted pensions to both pioneering women for their service;

Whereas Dr. Mary Edwards Walker served as a surgeon during the American Civil War and is the only woman to have been awarded the Medal of Honor;

Whereas Captain Williams, who was born a slave, enlisted in the Regular Army disguised as a man and served in the American West for 3 years;

Whereas Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee, a nurse in the Navy who served during World War I, was the first woman to receive the Navy Cross;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley, Women’s Army Corps, commanded the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II, which was the only all-African-American unit of the Women’s Army Corps to serve overseas during that war;

Whereas Hazel Lee, the first Asian-American woman to become a pilot in the Armed Forces, flew with the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II;

Whereas Colonel Mary Louise Rasmussen enlisted in the Army as a private during World War II as part of an effort to use women as military professionals, continued to serve after the war, was appointed by President Harry S. Truman as Director of the Women’s Army Corps in 1957 and reappointed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, was awarded the Legion of Merit for her work to integrate women into the Women’s Army Corps, increased the strength of the Women’s Army Corps by nearly 25 percent, ensured that the Army was served by women in all specialties for active duty enlisted women and 50 such specialties for women reservists, and successfully fought for legislation to approve active duty commissions for women in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps, the precursor to the Women’s Army Corps, to correct inequities for reserve officers of the Women’s Army Corps;

Whereas Margaret Zane Fleming and her 12 colleagues with the 1st Mobile Army Surgical Hospital who landed at Inchon, Korea, on September 15, 1950, and the many other nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, and other women who saved lives were on the front lines of not only the Korean War but also of medical trauma care;

Whereas 8 women gave their lives while serving in the Armed Forces in Vietnam, including First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane, Lieutenant Colonel Dottie Donnell, Captain Elain van, Lieutenant Colonel Annie Ruth Graham, Captain Mary Therese Klinker, Second Lieutenant Carol Ann Elizabeth Draza, Second Lieutenant Janet Janes, Captain Eleanor Grace Alexander, and First Lieutenant Hedwig Diane Orlowski;

Whereas Specialist Lori Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe, was the first Native-American woman in history to die in combat while serving in the Armed Forces and the first woman member of the Armed Forces killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas First Lieutenant Ashley White and Captain Jennifer Moreno, both soldiers of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, served in the Armed Forces throughout our Nation’s history, whether at the front, in support positions behind the lines, or here at home have marked a trail of honor for those who will follow them; and

Whereas all women who have served in the Armed Forces throughout our Nation’s history, whether at the front, in support positions behind the lines, or here at home have marked a trail of honor for those who will follow them;

Whereas women veterans of the Armed Forces have served in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have served in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

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Whereas Native Americans have served in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;
instances of arbitrary deprivation of life and other unlawful or politically motivated killings, arbitrary arrest or detention, denial of fair public trial, and other violations; 

Whereas House assesses Cambodia to be “not free” in its Freedom in the World 2019 report; 

Whereas the crackdown by the Government of Cambodia on the political opposition and other independent voices has caused many CNRP members to flee abroad; 

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, a court criminally charged and issued arrest warrants for eight leading members of the CNRP who had left Cambodia since the July 2018 election: Sam Rainsy, Mu Sochua, Ou Ch airstrikes, Eng Chhay Eang, Men Sothavarin, Long Ry, Tob Van Chan, and Ho Vann; 

Whereas the Government of Cambodia has arrested many opposition party members and democracy activists who remained in Cambodia, including bringing charges against more than 70 former CNRP members and detaining at least 35 of them since CNRP members announced in August 2019 that they might return to the country; 

Whereas a Cambodian court ordered a new investigation into two Radio Free Asia journalists charged with espionage even after two years of inquiry found insufficient evidence and after numerous human rights experts and a bipartisan group of United States Senators in a March 15, 2018, letter to Hun Sen argued that the charges were baseless; 

Whereas former CNRP leader, Sam Rainsy, and other members of the CNRP and supporters of democracy intend to return to Cambodia on November 9, 2019; 

Whereas Prime Minister Hun Sen threatened students that they would have one of their “joking fingers cut off” if they joined the cause of the returning democracy activists and ordered the military to attack any CNRP gatherings on November 9, 2019; 

Whereas according to Amnesty International, two youth activists have been arbitrarily detained since July for attempting to peacefully commemorate the murder of a popular government critic; 

Whereas, on November 16, 2017, the United States Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 278 (115th Congress), a bipartisan resolution expressing the commitment of the United States to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Cambodia; and 

Whereas the Asia Reinsurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) prohibits the authorization of appropriations to the Government of Cambodia until the Secretary of State certifies that Cambodia is taking effective steps in several areas, including the restoration of the civil and political rights of the CNRP and civil society organizations; Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(A) urge the Government of Cambodia to allow the peaceful return of exiled CNRP leaders and their supporters; 

(B) refrain from unjustly restricting the rights of CNRP members to travel and through their countries as they return; and 

(C) recognize, in the absence of systemic democratic reforms, the need for additional United States Government measures, including through legislation and executive action.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 7 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULERS AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and further amended by Public Law 113-281, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Honorable D. ANTHONY DAVIS of Alabama.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and further amended by Public Law 113-281, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Honorable D. ANTHONY DAVIS of Alabama.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and further amended by Public Law 113-281, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Honorable D. ANTHONY DAVIS of Alabama.

SUPPLY CHAIN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE TRAINING ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 191, S. 1388.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1388) to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, and for other purposes.

The bill (S. 1388) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1388

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Supply Chain Counterintelligence Training Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAM TO MANAGE SUPPLY CHAIN RISK.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of
the Office of Management and Budget, in co-
operation with the Director of National In-
telligence, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
rity, and the Administrator of General Ser-
vices, shall establish and implement a coun-
terintelligence training program for officials
with supply chain risk management responsi-
bilities at executive agencies (including procure-
ment, information and communications technology, and acquisition officials). The
program shall be designed to prepare such
personnel to identify and mitigate counter-
intelligence threats that arise during the ac-
quisition and use throughout the lifecycle of
information and communications tech-
nology.

SEC. 3. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PRO-
GRAM.
Not later than 180 days after the date of
the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days
for the next three years, the Director of the
Office of Management and Budget, in con-
sultation with the Director of National In-
telligence, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
rity, and the Administrator of General Serv-
ices, shall submit to the appropriate congress-
ional committees and leadership a report on
the implementation of the program required under
section 2

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.
In this Act:
(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
tees and LEADERSHIP.—In this Act, the term 'ap-
propriate congressional committees' means the:
(A) the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
mental Affairs and the House Committee on Homeland Security;
(B) the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;
(C) the Senate Committee on Appropriations; or
(D) the House Committee on Appropriations.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—In this Act, the term 'execu-
tive agency' means—
(A) the Department of Homeland Security;
(B) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(C) the government wide office responsible for the Prevention of
Domestic Terrorism; and
(D) any other executive agency responsible for the
administration of the programs or activities
covered by this Act.

FEDERAL ADVANCE CONTRACTS
ENHANCEMENT ACT
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I
ask unanimous consent that the Senate
proceed to the immediate consider-
ation of Calendar No. 188. S. 979.

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

The motion as assistant legislative clerk
read as follows:
A bill (S. 979) to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to
incorporate the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office relating to advance contracts, and for other
purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate
proceeded to consider the bill, which
had been reported from the Committee on
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments; as follows:

The parts of the bill intended to be
stricken are shown in boldface brackets;
and the parts of the bill intended to be
inserted are shown in italics.

(1) SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the "Federal Ad-
vance Contracts Enhancement Act" or the
"FACE Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
Congress finds that—
(1) the Post-Katrina Emergency Manage-
ment and Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law
109-925; 120 Stat. 1394) required the Federal
Emergency Management Agency to establish
advance contracts, which are established prior to disasters and are typically needed to
quickly provide life-sustaining goods and
services in the immediate aftermath of a dis-
aster;
(2) the catastrophic hurricanes and
wildfires in the United States in 2017 high-
lighted the importance of these advance con-
tracts in disaster response;
(3) in a report issued by the Government
Accountability Office entitled "2017 Disaster
Contracting: Action Needed to Better Ensure
More Effective Use and Management of Ad-
vance Contracts", the Government Account-
ability Office identified a number of chal-
enges with advance contracts and reccom-
ended actions to improve management by
the Federal Emergency Management Agency
of these contracts for future disasters;
(4) section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emer-
gency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6
U.S.C. 701) should be amended to incorporate
the recommendations made by the report de-
scribed in paragraph (3) to ensure more effec-
tive use and management of advance con-
tracts;

SEC. 3. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADVANCE CONTRACTS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 691 of the Post-
Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 701) should be amended by adding at the end the following:
"(e) UPDATED REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this sub-
section, the Administrator shall submit to the
appropriate committees of Congress an updated report that contains—
(1) the information required in the initial report under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1); and
(2) an updated strategy described in sub-
section (a)(1)(C) that clearly defines—
(A) the objectives for advance contracts;
(B) how advance contracts contribute to
disaster response operations of the Agency;
and
(C) how to maximize the award of advance contracts to small business concerns, as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and
(3) whether and how advance con-
tracts should be prioritized in relation to
new post-disaster contract awards.

(b) ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE ADMIN-
ISTRATOR.—
(1) HEAD OF CONTRACTING.—The Admin-
istrator shall ensure that the head of con-
tracting activity of the Agency—
(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, updates the
Disaster Contracting Desk Guide of the Agency to provide specific guidance—
(i) on whether and under what cir-
cumstances contracting officers should con-
sider using existing advance contracts en-
tered into in accordance with this section to fill, in whole or in part, the awarded con-
tacts, and include this guidance in existing
semi-annual training given to contracting
officers; and
(ii) for contractors to perform outreach to
State and local governments on the po-
tential benefits of establishing their own pre-negotiated advance contracts;
(II) adheres to hard copy contract file
management requirements in effect to en-
sure that the files relating to advance con-
tracts entered into in accordance with this
section are complete and up to date, whether
the files will be transferred into the Elec-
tronic Contract Filing System of the Agency
or remain in hard copy format;
"(C) notifies officers of the 3-
day time frame requirement for entering
completed award documentation into the
contract writing system of the Agency when
executing notice to proceed documentation;
"(D) not later than 180 days after the date
of enactment of this subsection, revises the
report methodology of the Agency to en-
sure that all disaster contracts are included
in each quarterly report submitted to the ap-
propriate congressional committees under
this section and ensures that source is cur-
rent and up to date and includes all available
advance contracts; and
"(F) communicates complete and up-to-
date information on available advance con-
tacts to the Director of National In-
elligence in the report entitled "2017 Disaster
Contracting: Action Needed to Better
Ensure More Effective Use and Manage-
ment of Advance Contracts", the Govern-
ment Accountability Office entitled "2017 Disaster
Wildfires in the United States in 2017 high-
lighted the importance of these advance con-
tacts in disaster response; and
"(G) fully communicates the purpose and
use of a master acquisition planning sched-
ule.

"(b) REPORT.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall regularly update the appropriate com-
mittees of Congress (as defined in section 602 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 701)) on the
progress of the Federal Emergency Manage-
ment Agency in implementing the rec-
ommendations of the Government Account-
ability Office in the report entitled "2017
Disaster Contracting: Action Needed to Better
Ensure More Effective Use and Manage-
ment of Advance Contracts" required under
section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emer-
gency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6
U.S.C. 701) as amended by subsection (a).

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous
consent that the committee-reported
amendments be agreed to, the bill, as
amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to consider the bill be placed upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendments
were agreed to.

The bill (S. 979), as amended, was or-
dered to be engrossed for a third read-
ing, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 979

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the "Federal Ad-
vance Contracts Enhancement Act" or the
"FACE Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
Congress finds that—
(1) the Post-Katrina Emergency Manage-
ment and Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law
109-925; 120 Stat. 1394) required the Federal
Emergency Management Agency to establish
advance contracts, which are established prior to disasters and are typically needed to
quickly provide life-sustaining goods and
services in the immediate aftermath of a dis-
aster;
(2) the catastrophic hurricanes and
wildfires in the United States in 2017 high-
lighted the importance of these advance con-
tacts in disaster response; and
(3) in a report issued by the Government
Accountability Office entitled "2017 Disaster
Wildfires in the United States in 2017 high-
lighted the importance of these advance con-
tacts in disaster response; and
"(E) identifies a single centralized resource
listing advance contracts entered into under
this section and ensures that source is cur-
rent and up to date and includes all available
advance contracts; and
"(F) communicates complete and up-to-
date information on available advance con-
tacts to the Director of National In-
elligence in the report entitled "2017 Disaster
Contracting: Action Needed to Better
Ensure More Effective Use and Manage-
ment of Advance Contracts", the Govern-
ment Accountability Office entitled "2017 Disaster
CONTRACTING: Action Needed to Better Ensure More Effective Use and Management of Advance Contracts—the Government Accountability Office identified a number of challenges and recommended actions to improve management by the Federal Emergency Management Agency of these contracts for future disasters; and
(4) section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791) should be amended to incorporate the requirements, as described in paragraph (3) to ensure more effective use and management of advance contracts.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADVANCE CONTRACTS.

(a) In General.—Section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) Updated Report.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall update the Disaster Contracting Desk Guide of the Disaster Contracting: Action Needed to Bet- ter Ensure More Effective Use and Management of Advance Contracts to State and Local Governments to in- form their advance contracting efforts.

(2) Master Acquisition Planning Schedule.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Admin- istrator shall update and implement guid- ance for preparing and acquisition per- sonnel of the Agency to—

(1) identify acquisition planning time frames and considerations across the entire acquisition planning process of the Agency; and
(2) clearly communicate the purpose and use of a master acquisition planning schedule.


DIVISIONAL REALIGNMENT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1123 and the Senate proceed to its im- mediate consideration.

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

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1123) to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the eastern judicial district of Arkansas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed without the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 413) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.'"

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 413, submitted earlier today.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution is so ordered. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.'"

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution was printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.'"

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 412, submitted earlier today.

The resolution was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.'"

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 413) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution was printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.'"

Samuel M.全程, 特点美国历史及文化中的不同贡献。
A resolution (S. Res. 414) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

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

Mr. McConnell. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 414) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on Friday, November 8, at 8 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 8, it next convenes at 3 p.m. Tuesday, November 12, and 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 Wolf nomination.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:56 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 8, 2019, at 8 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy, Vice James Richard Perry, Resigning.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 7, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY
Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.
Lee Philip Rudofsky, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S6453–S6486

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2807–2829, and S. Res. 410–416. Pages S6474–76

Measures Reported:
- 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 6731 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. 2151, 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. 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”.
- 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”.

Measures Passed:
Supply Chain Counterintelligence Training Act: Senate passed S. 1388, to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training. Pages S6483–84

Federal Advance Contracts Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 979, to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to incorporate the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office relating to advance contracts, after agreeing to the committee amendments. Pages S6484–85

Divisional Realignment for the Eastern District of Arkansas Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1123, to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the eastern judicial district of Arkansas, and the bill was then passed. Page S6485

National Family Service Learning Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 412, expressing support for the designation of the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as “National Family Service Learning Week”. Page S6485

National Veterans Small Business Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 413, designating the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as “National Veterans Small Business Week”. Page S6485

National Native American Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 414, recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States. Pages S6485–86

Appointments:
Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President,
pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and further amended by Public Law 113–281, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Senator Sullivan.

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101–595, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Senator Moran (Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation); and Senator Wicker (ex officio as Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.)

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, November 7, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that that it be in order to move to proceed to consideration of the nomination.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that it be in order to move to proceed to consideration of the nomination.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 350), Lee Philip Rudofsky, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

By 88 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 351), Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

By 86 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 352), William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—352)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:56 p.m., until 8 a.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S6486.)
Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill, focusing on rural development and energy programs, after receiving testimony from Bette Brand, Administrator for Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Bruce Lammers, Administrator for Rural Housing Service, and Chad Rupe, Administrator for Rural Utilities Service, all of the Department of Agriculture; Keith Hayward, North East Mississippi Electric Power Association, Oxford; Bryan Sievers, AgriReNew JV, Stockton, Iowa, on behalf of the American Biogas Council; Michael Stanley, Grace Health, Corbin, Kentucky; and Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Michigan State University Extension, East Lansing.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGISLATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine bipartisan bills to promote affordable housing access and safety, including S. 2160, to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, S. 1804, 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 S. 2801, to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, after receiving testimony from Ivory N. Mathews, Columbia Housing Authority, Columbia, South Carolina; Mark Yost, Skyline Champion Corporation, Troy, Michigan, on behalf of the Manufactured Housing Institute; and Peggy Bailey, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, D.C.

FEDERAL REVENUES DERIVED FROM ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded 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, after receiving testimony from Gregory J. Gould, Director for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior; Laura B. Comay, Specialist in Natural Resources Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Mayor Harry Brower, Jr., North Slope Borough, Alaska; Kyle R. Kline, Jr., Office of the Governor of Louisiana, Baton Rouge; and Randall Luthi, Office of the Governor of Wyoming, Cheyenne.

AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on Afghanistan, focusing on the way ahead, from Zalmay Khalilzad, Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of 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 District of Pennsylvania, and Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MODERNIZATION OVERSIGHT

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Library of Congress modernization, after receiving testimony from Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, Bernard A. Barton, Jr., Chief Information Officer, and Karyn A. Temple, Register of Copyrights and Director of the Copyright Office, all of the Library of Congress.

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

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet in Pro Forma session at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
8 a.m., Friday, November 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1 p.m., Friday, November 8

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in a Pro Forma session at 1 p.m.