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Senate

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, the fountain of every blessing, in this Thanksgiving season, we praise Your Holy Name. May the lives of our lawmakers please You. Inspire them to walk in Your ways, keeping Your precepts with such integrity that they will glorify Your Name. Incline their hearts to Your wisdom and provide them with the understanding they need to accomplish Your purposes.

Lord God, let Your mercy protect our Senators from the dangers of this life, as they learn to find delight in receiving Your approval. Keep them ever mindful of life's brevity and the greatness of their work.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, probably a lot of my colleagues know I have had a quarter-century interest in legislation dealing with foster care and the foster care system. This is National Adoption Month, and while recent data

from the Department of Health and Human Services show improvements for kids in foster care, it is clear that there is still work to be done.

In 2018, the average length of stay in foster care increased to over 19 months. We need to take that statistic as movement in the wrong direction. Less than half of the kids who exited foster care were reunited with their parents. Our goal ought to be to reunite them with their parents when it isn't harmful to the kids, but what I have also learned over the last 25 years from talking to kids who are in foster care, being shunted from home to home, school to school in the same school year—I have heard from them, "I would like to have a mom and dad," and "I would like to have a permanent home."

I have taken that to heart, and legislation that I have worked on helps with that issue. All children deserve a permanent home, and they deserve caring, consistent adults to nurture and guide them. As long as I serve in Congress, I will continue to work toward that goal.

Also, during this month of November, National Adoption Month, I hope people will take a special concern about kids who are in foster care.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Washington and the cable news channels have spent the week fixated on House Democrats' impeachment hearings.

A few months ago, Speaker PELOSI was saying she was not "for impeachment" unless it was "bipartisan." But even after the resolution codifying the Democrats' unfair process received zero

Republican votes, the House plowed ahead anyway, searching for a way to arrive at an outcome the Democrats literally predetermined years ago.

Meanwhile, the American people are still waiting for Washington Democrats to stop blocking crucial bipartisan legislation. I spoke yesterday about the USMCA, the landmark trade deal that experts say would create 176,000 American jobs. For 9 months, Speaker PELOSI has told the press every couple of weeks that she will allow a vote soon. Last winter, she was "optimistic"; over the summer, "We want to pass this bill"; this fall, "becoming closer"; and a couple of weeks ago, "I think we are close."

We have had months of this stalling. Now we are 1 week out from Thanksgiving, and there is still no tangible sign—none—of progress from the House. If the House cannot pass the USMCA this year, there is no way they will be able to claim that the people's business has not taken a back seat to impeachment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, the USMCA is not the only important legislation Democrats are holding up. As if neglecting the first major update to North American trade policy in a generation were not enough, they are also on track to break a nearly 60-year tradition of passing a bipartisan Defense authorization bill.

Passing the NDAA is one of Congress's most basic governing responsibilities. It authorizes and assures the ongoing missions of our Armed Forces and the resources the Department of Defense needs to carry them out.

Every year since 1961, these goals have been enough to get Members across the ideological spectrum to

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



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come together and deliver a comprehensive, bipartisan piece of legislation—but not this year, at least not yet.

House Democrats are so intent on picking fights with the White House that they decided to play partisan games with our Armed Forces. They passed a fully party-line NDAA—not one Republican vote—for their House version on the floor. I believe it is the first time ever that either Chamber has passed a purely partisan NDAA.

The House, on a partisan basis, also included many provisions that aren't even in the jurisdiction of their Armed Services Committee. Even in conference, House Democrats are holding germane provisions hostage in order to secure partisan, nongermane provisions that literally have nothing whatsoever to do with our national security.

Their demands to treat the NDAA like a gift basket to liberal interest groups is imperiling the passage of this important legislation. We are talking about demands like a new taxpayer-funded benefit for all Federal employees and burdening farmers, ranchers, small businesses, local airports, and community water utilities with expensive new environmental liabilities—all kinds of domestic policy changes that were not in the Senate's bipartisan version and have no business bringing this crucial process to a halt.

The Senate did things the right way. We passed a bipartisan NDAA back in June, just as we do every year. That is a credit to Chairman INHOFE, Ranking Member REED, and the rest of the Senate Armed Services Committee. It was a thoroughly bipartisan product, debated out in the open.

But House Democrats literally went off the rails. The House Rules Committee afforded floor debate only on a single substantive Republican amendment while they jammed through their own partisan priorities. They passed a totally partisan NDAA with zero Republican votes—none. Now they are risking the entire conference committee to insist those partisan demands wind up in the end product.

Enough is enough. The USMCA and NDAA cannot be clearer examples of bipartisan legislation that would make our country stronger.

Our Democratic friends said that they want to do more than just impeach. They say they came to Washington to do more than pick fights with the President. Well, in the next days and weeks, we will find out if they mean it.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2920

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2920) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 347.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 353.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 478.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 381.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, Rick Scott.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 459.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 460.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 479.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso,

Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 489.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Mitch McConnell.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

HONG KONG

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I would like to comment on the Hong Kong legislation that we passed this week. Tuesday night, the Senate unanimously passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, led by Senators RUBIO and CARDIN, Foreign Relations Chairman RISCH, and Ranking Member MENENDEZ, and a supporting cast of colleagues. This bill is intended to spur Hong Kong officials and pro-Beijing constituencies to protect Hong Kong's autonomy and its

special relationship with the United States and to hold those committing human rights violations in Hong Kong accountable. It builds on the 1992 United States-Hong Kong Policy Act, which asserts that the United States has a "strong interest in the continued vitality, prosperity, and stability of Hong Kong." I am grateful for the leadership of the Senators who worked to advance this bill.

The issue at hand is Hong Kong's right to an independent judicial system and its unique status in a one-country, two-system construct. The bill that spurred the June protests in Hong Kong—a bill pushed by the communist Chinese central government that sought to impose extraditions from Hong Kong to mainland China—would have directly undercut this judicial independence. This bill has been withdrawn, but a number of other grievances have boiled over into protests.

Hong Kong's autonomy is under attack, and China is posturing to "mainlandize" their economy. Recent educational reforms seek to undermine Hong Kong's culture and traditions through compulsory Mandarin classes instead of the Cantonese that most Hongkongers speak. The Chinese Government will say that westerners have the wrong impression of what is going on there, that this is strictly an internal matter. We beg to differ. There are more than 85,000 American citizens in Hong Kong. Moreover, the human rights of the people of Hong Kong are directly tied to U.S. interests in Hong Kong and Hong Kong's economic prosperity.

China has threatened repercussions if the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act is enacted. I imagine China is fearful that attention to human rights abuses in Hong Kong will draw increased attention to other human rights abuses in China, such as the estimated 1.5 million Muslim Uighurs in forced detention in one of China's western provinces.

Papers leaked this week from the government of the Communist Party and General Secretary Xi detail the coercive "reeducation" that goes on in these internment camps. Christians in China also face regular persecution and imprisonment for following their faith and living out their beliefs. The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act will help shed increased light on Beijing's aggression and on human rights abuses in Hong Kong.

Last night, the House sent this Senate bill to the President's desk with a resounding 417-to-1 vote—a clear statement that Congress stands with Hong Kong.

THANKSGIVING

Madam President, a week from today, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Like every Thanksgiving, I will be home in South Dakota celebrating with my family: My wife, my daughters, my sons-in-law, and my four—soon to be five—grandchildren. I will be taking on my traditional job of carving

the turkey and helping with the dishes afterward. I am looking forward to a lot of good pie—apple pie a la mode, pumpkin, with a lot of whipped cream, and my favorite is anything in the creamed-pie family.

I am looking forward to spending time outdoors. My daughters and I traditionally go on a trail run Thanksgiving morning. It is a good way to work up an appetite for all that pie. We all enjoy throwing around a football before or after the meal. South Dakotans are pretty resilient when it comes to being out in the cold. As long as we don't have tons of snow, we like to get outdoors on Thanksgiving.

Like many South Dakotans, I love to squeeze in a little pheasant hunting over Thanksgiving, whenever I can.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. I love sitting down with my whole family—and extended family—and getting to spend time in South Dakota outdoors before winter really hits us.

Thanksgiving has a long tradition in this country. Long before the United States was a nation, various Colonies were celebrating days of thanksgiving. Our current celebration of Thanksgiving can be traced to Abraham Lincoln, who issued a proclamation in 1863 inviting a national celebration of Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November.

In 1941, Congress codified the Thanksgiving holiday and permanently set the date as the fourth Thursday in November. I don't think it is too surprising that the celebration of Thanksgiving is a recurring part of our history. On Thanksgiving in my family, typically, we go around the table and say what we are thankful for. In this country, that is a pretty long list, including the tremendous natural riches of this country, from great rivers to magnificent mountains, to our wide-open access to the sea, and the tremendous freedoms that we enjoy. And in the 21st century, we enjoy freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, and other freedoms, like the freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, or excessive fines or cruel and unusual punishments. All of these freedoms that we so often take for granted are still unknown to too many people across the world.

The United States is not perfect, and we don't always get it right, but we enjoy tremendous blessings in this country. It is important not to take them for granted. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to pause and reflect on all that we have been given.

I am grateful to God for so many blessings this year. I am thankful for the great blessing of my family—my dad, Harold, a World War II aviator who will turn 100 next month; my brothers and sister; my wife Kimberly, the best thing in my life; my beautiful daughters and my sons-in-law; and our grandchildren, pretty much the most amazing grandchildren ever, in my own unbiased opinion.

I am thankful for the great State of South Dakota, for our fresh air and wide-open spaces, from the prairies of farm country to the rugged terrain of the Black Hills.

South Dakotans are a resilient, kind, and gracious people, and I am thankful every day that I am lucky enough to call South Dakota home.

I am also tremendously grateful for the work I get to do. Getting to represent South Dakotans in the Senate is one of the great privileges of my life. While it has been a contentious year with a divided Congress, I have still had the chance to continue to work on important issues affecting people in my State and around the country, like helping our Nation's farmers and ranchers in this tough agriculture economy.

I am grateful for the privilege of living in this great country, and I am grateful for all the men and women who put their lives on the line every single day to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. Our military men and women represent the very best of America, and I am grateful every day for their service and for their sacrifice.

In that 1863 proclamation of Thanksgiving Day that I mentioned, Abraham Lincoln, in his referring to the blessings America had experienced even in the midst of the horrors of the Civil War, said:

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.

God has blessed us with very great gifts in this country, and it is, indeed, fit and proper that we should dedicate a day to reverently and gratefully acknowledge them.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKSGIVING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, let me thank my friend from South Dakota for his wonderful words on Thanksgiving.

I was going to conclude with Thanksgiving, but I will start with it. It is a great holiday. It is a great American holiday. I love it, and my family loves it. I was born on Thanksgiving Day. My new grandson was born on November 24, so he will have birthdays on Thanksgiving as well. This year, for the first time, the SCHUMERS will celebrate with four generations, because my parents, who also served in the Army Air Force in World War II—my dad, 96, and my mom, 91—will be there with their little great-grandson, Noah. We are blessed.

Thanksgiving is family and food. What could be better than that? They are two great parts of the holiday. I

will not carve the turkey like THUNE does because it would get all screwed up, but I can dole out the mashed potatoes—I am good at that—which is probably what they will have me do. It is a great holiday, and we do have a great deal to thank God and the country for.

The wonderful thing about Thanksgiving is, from its origins during the Civil War—one of the worst, most horrible times in America, with so much death and mayhem and division—people were still grateful for America, and we are today. It is an amazing place. My father was an exterminator, and I am a U.S. Senator. What an amazing country this is, and we should never stop trying to make it better. I try to do that every day. I am thankful that I live in a country in which you can try to make it better.

I am thankful for many, many things—family, with our new addition this year. Iris and I are so happy about that. We have great kids and a great daughter-in-law and son-in-law. There is just a lot to be thankful for, and it is nice to take a pause, amidst all the fighting and partisanship here, to be grateful.

IMPEACHMENT

Madam President, now, on some more legislative, Senatorial, governmental subjects, the Ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, provided some of the most significant testimony yesterday in the House impeachment inquiry to date.

Ambassador Sondland asserted a “quid pro quo,” linking the offer of a White House meeting—an official act—in exchange for Ukrainian officials’ announcing an investigation into Burisma and the 2016 elections. President Trump tried to rebut that quid pro quo by saying he told Sondland on the phone there was no quid pro quo. Donald Trump is not known for telling the truth, particularly when his own self-interest is at stake. So it doesn’t stand up very well compared to Sondland’s words.

Sondland went on to testify to his understanding that President Trump’s suspension of military aid to Ukraine was also conditioned on the announcement of these same investigations. Those investigations, of course, had nothing to do with national security or any other interests of the United States. On the contrary, they were solely in President Trump’s personal, political interests.

Ambassador Sondland also testified that Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Perry, Chief of Staff Mulvaney, and other senior advisers to those individuals were well aware of these activities and the connection between White House policy and requests from the President to have Ukraine announce investigations that would be politically advantageous to President Trump.

Let me repeat: Those individuals I just mentioned—Pompeo, Perry, Mulvaney, and a few of their senior advisers—were identified by Ambassador

Sondland as having information and knowledge of the events that are central to this impeachment inquiry. All of them are currently refusing to testify, are defying subpoenas from the House of Representatives, and, in some cases, are challenging those subpoenas in court.

This morning, I would strongly urge the courts that have jurisdiction over these cases to quickly resolve them. The individuals named in these subpoenas are fact witnesses in the pending House impeachment inquiry. In addition, these officials and others are withholding evidence in the form of documents that are, unquestionably, material to the impeachment inquiry. Ambassador Sondland’s testimony demonstrated even more pointedly why it is so essential that the witnesses who have been summoned must comply and why the courts should promptly enforce House subpoenas in the pending cases.

When I hear the courts say that in 5 weeks or in 6 weeks, they will have court hearings or decisions—I have never practiced in these Washington courts; I have a law degree, but I am not a practicing lawyer—I don’t understand, and I think Americans don’t understand why the courts take so long when there is such an important issue before them. All of the judges have a responsibility to make decisions quickly and soon so that if they agree that these people should be compelled to testify—and I don’t know what the decisions will be—that their testimony would be received in a timely manner.

We have two groups of people at the moment. One group is testifying under oath in the House inquiry that there was a “quid pro quo” and substantial wrongdoing. Another group is denying any wrongdoing but is refusing to comply with subpoenas or to testify under oath. If these individuals feel they have exculpatory evidence to provide or that the testimony provided to the House is incorrect, they should testify under oath. Otherwise, the American people will rightly wonder why they refuse to do so.

Let me just repeat what I said in the last few days: If Donald Trump tweets away at how wrong these witnesses are, let him come before the committee, under oath, and testify to what he tweets. Speaker PELOSI has said she would welcome President Trump’s coming and testifying. President Trump has not been silent on these issues. He has been tweeting away—ridiculing the witnesses and saying what they have said is wrong. Well, if he is right, has nothing to hide, and wants to convince the American people and the House of Representatives, let him come under oath and tell his side of the story. When he doesn’t come under oath—and he can do it tomorrow or in the next few days—the American people will ask: Mr. President, what are you hiding? What are you not telling the truth about?

APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, on appropriations, later today, the Senate is set to pass a continuing resolution to fund the government through December 20, which will send it to the President's desk. I am optimistic that the passage of the continuing resolution today will be something from which Congress can build—a sign that appropriators from both sides of the aisle will be ready to work together to settle government funding by the end of the calendar year.

With another month's time at our disposal, the appropriations process can now go down one of two paths. On the first path, President Trump stays out of our way and gives Congress the space to work together and find agreement. On the second path, President Trump stomps his feet, makes impossible demands, and prevents his party—the Republicans—from coming to a fair arrangement.

The first path leads to a bipartisan deal on appropriations and guaranteed, long-term funding for both Republican and Democratic priorities. The second path leads, as we all know, to another Trump government shutdown. I hope the passage of the continuing resolution will be the first step down the bipartisan path that will lead to successful agreement by the end of the year.

HONG KONG

Madam President, on Hong Kong, 2 days ago, the Senate passed legislation, by unanimous consent, committing the United States to stand with the brave citizens of Hong Kong, who are now engaged in a fierce struggle to defend their civil and human rights. Last night, the House of Representatives followed suit by a vote of 417 to 1. Only a short time ago, I took part in a bipartisan signing ceremony for the legislation. Now it will head straight to the President's desk. Congress has just sent an unmistakable message to the Chinese Communist Party that the United States stands with the people of Hong Kong.

President Xi, the U.S. Government has spoken. This legislation represents what America really thinks about your policies toward Hong Kong, not what President Trump may whisper in your ear. This legislation shows what Americans think about the Chinese Communist Party's treatment of Hong Kong.

I would say to President Xi and to the Chinese leadership, the Communist Party leadership: You cannot be a great nation when you oppose freedom, deny civil liberties, and brutally suppress your own people from one end of China to the other, as the Chinese Communist Party has done to the people of Hong Kong, to the Uighurs, and to the millions of citizens whose voices have been silenced and whose rights have been trampled on by the Chinese Government.

To the people of China, we stand with you in freedom.

To the students and young people in Hong Kong, we stand with you.

To the Uighurs, who simply want to practice their religion, we stand with you.

I believe that freedom will prevail and that the Chinese system will either change or it will fail. History is not kind to those who peddle in autocracy and suppression.

I thank all of my colleagues. This was one of the rare, fine, bipartisan moments on the floor of the Senate. Our colleagues on both sides of the aisle—the Senators from Florida and Idaho, Messrs. RUBIO and RISCH; the Senators from Maryland and New Jersey, Messrs. CARDIN and MENENDEZ; as well as Senator MERKLEY and Senator CORNYN—all worked hard to put together a very strong bill, and we came together. This has been an important bipartisan moment. It goes to show how Congress is still capable of doing big things.

As we enter the Thanksgiving break, we should think about the other issues we could debate, about the other bipartisan bills on which we could vote, those of lowering the cost of prescription drugs, of securing our elections, of helping our veterans, and more. Passing bipartisan legislation should be the rule, not the exception.

It has been several weeks since we have had a real debate and a vote on any legislation in this Chamber. I hope that in the final weeks of this year, Leader MCCONNELL will begin to listen to the pleas from both sides of the aisle to get the Senate working again.

A happy Thanksgiving to one and all. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I come to the floor with the senior Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN, to celebrate a great anniversary.

Two hundred years ago this week, the very first newspaper in Arkansas was published. It was called the Arkansas Gazette. We know it today as the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. It is the oldest paper west of the Mississippi, an institution in our State, and a credit to the many outstanding journalists who have made it possible over two centuries.

From its first issue, the Arkansas Gazette was a pioneering newspaper, published by a young man named William Woodruff who crossed the mighty Mississippi into brandnew territory, dragging behind him a wooden printing press and other tools of the trade.

The Gazette was first published out of a log cabin in the territorial capital, Arkansas Post. It reflected the bold aspirations of American settlers moving West to fulfill our manifest destiny on the continent, and it reflected these landlocked settlers' keen awareness that events far beyond out little plot of soil could shape their lives in dramatic ways.

The first story in the very first edition reported on a Navy expedition to

open the Pacific Northwest for American traders. It speculated with excitement about the prosperity that would flow to our Nation as Americans followed Lewis and Clark west across the country. "The plan may appear visionary," the Gazette remarked, "but that which is now speculation will . . . shortly become a fact, and this country will be enriched by the overflowings of its benefit."

As the Arkansas Territory grew, Arkansas's newspaper grew with it. Woodruff moved the paper from Arkansas Post to Little Rock in 1821, where it would continue to be published for the next 198 years with few exceptions, such as a devastating fire in the 1850s and military occupation during the Civil War.

Just as Arkansas kept its rough-hewn, pioneer character, so too did Arkansas's newspaper, whose staff were involved in not one but two gun battles, including the last recorded duel in Arkansas history—between, I am compelled to report, the owners of the Gazette and its upstart competitor, the Democrat.

If William Woodruff was the founding father of the Democrat-Gazette, John Netherland Heiskell was its Lincoln, bringing the paper triumphantly into maturity. Heiskell became editor in 1902 and served in that position for an incredible 70 years until his passing in 1972. The one interruption in Heiskell's remarkable tenure came in 1913, when the Governor selected him to serve as a U.S. Senator after the death of a sitting Senator. He only served in this body for 23 days before a successor was elected, and then he hurried back to Little Rock and to the Gazette because the news waits for no man.

Over the next half-century, the Gazette established itself as a world-class newspaper. It was during this period that the Gazette took a bold stand for truth in the finest tradition of journalism by declaring its support for desegregation well ahead of the pack in 1957. The Gazette and its editorial writer, Harry Ashmore, covered the turmoil surrounding Little Rock's integration with decency and firmness, insisting that Arkansas fulfill its obligation to all our citizens on an equal basis, without regard to race. This editorial crusade lost more than a few subscriptions, but it won the Gazette two Pulitzer Prizes "for demonstrating," in the words of the Pulitzer committee, "the highest qualities of civic leadership, journalistic responsibility, and moral courage." And so the Arkansas Gazette entered the modern era as a famous and award-winning publication.

In 1991, after years known as "the newspaper wars," the Gazette's old rival, the Democrat, bought the paper and created what we now know as the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Fortunately, I hasten to add, no duels were needed this time around. Now, the Democrat-Gazette is again changing with the times through the capable

leadership of Walter Hussman, his family, and David Bailey, the managing editor. This time, the paper is transforming for the digital era, moving from paper to screen, and it is even giving away free iPads to subscribers to ease the transition. So if you are not already a subscriber, consider supporting our local journalism in Arkansas. It has a bright future ahead.

Today, unfortunately, many venerable newspaper have fallen on hard times. Too many journalists can't be bothered to get the story right. Too many local communities are losing parts of their identity, which is all the more reason to celebrate newspapers like the Democrat-Gazette, which do get the story right and have preserved their distinctive character throughout the years.

Some things may change. The Democrat-Gazette of the future may be heralded by the bright glow of the screen rather than the rustle of the news page. But other, more important things stay the same, such as integrity, impartiality, and credibility. The Democrat-Gazette holds its reporters to the highest standards of accuracy and ethics.

Walter Hussman publishes these high standards that won the Gazette two Pulitzer Prizes every day on page 2 of the newspaper in its statement of core values. That statement reads:

Credibility is the greatest asset of any news medium and impartiality is the greatest source of credibility.

The Democrat-Gazette practices what it preaches, and for that reason, it continues to succeed 200 years on.

There is also its Arkansas focus. As ever, the Democrat-Gazette earnestly pursues stories in Arkansas for the benefit of Arkansans. It is this proud local focus which has made the Democrat-Gazette a beloved institution in Arkansas and which will sustain it in the years ahead. Finally, the pioneer spirit—from the Arkansas Territory to the frontiers of digital journalism, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette will travel confidently into the future.

Today, I join Senator BOOZMAN in congratulating the Hussman family, the Democrat-Gazette, and all of their many hard-working professionals and journalists.

I yield the floor to my colleague, the senior Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, it is a pleasure to be with my friend and colleague from Arkansas to talk about a tremendous State institution, something that is truly a true Arkansas institution, and we want to pay tribute to it and the men and women who made it great in the past and will continue to make it great into the future.

Newspapers have played a vital role in our country's history of public discourse, increasing our knowledge and awareness about what takes place all around us. The stories they print keep us informed, while building a sense of community and regional identity. Newspapers drive political debates and set the agenda, helping us make sense of the issues impacting our world.

As one of the oldest continuously published newspapers west of the Mississippi, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette has been a resource of information that has kept readers connected to community, the State, and our Nation for 200 years.

In 1819, William E. Woodruff published the first edition of the Arkansas Gazette, the Arkansas Territory's first newspaper. There was no shortage of news to print in those days. During its early years, the publication encouraged settlement to the region, shared news of national importance, and promoted statehood.

For generations, this publication has been a primary source of reliable and comprehensive news that has shaped the way Arkansans view the world. It has constantly challenged the status quo and examined the decisions of elected leaders, while pursuing transparency and accountability.

The work the Gazette produced often resulted in positive change in the Natural State. In 1957, the newspaper opposed Governor Orval Faubus's decision to prevent integration of Little Rock Central High School. For its reporting on the struggles of integration, the Gazette earned two Pulitzer Prizes, one for meritorious public service and the other awarded to its executive editor, Harry Ashmore, for editorial writing, marking the first time a newspaper won two Pulitzer Prizes in the same year.

The newspaper and its spirited competitor, the Arkansas Democrat, contended for readers and advertisers for decades. In 1991, the Gazette was sold to the owners of the Arkansas Democrat, who then launched the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, which is the only statewide newspaper Arkansans read today.

The importance of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in today's media landscape cannot be overstated. In some cases, it is the sole source of news for many small towns in Arkansas, as local newspapers continue to cease operations, especially those serving rural areas.

Under the leadership of Walter Hussman, Jr., the Democrat-Gazette is navigating the challenging industry landscape and creating opportunities to keep readers informed by keeping costs manageable. Hussman and his team are rethinking how and what news they deliver to readers, as well as how subscribers can and like to consume it.

To cut printing and transportation costs and combat declining advertisement revenue, the paper is now using iPads to maintain subscribers and continue providing this valuable, not-easily-replaced service to the community.

In an interview earlier this year about efforts at the Democrat-Gazette, Hussman noted his view that the print model is not sustainable, but he voiced his commitment to finding a solution that will fill the void because, as he says, society and our democracy will be impeded if we don't have newspapers.

It is a simple truth. Throughout periods of change, Hussman and the newspaper he owns continue to believe in the critical role that news gathering and reporting play in informing the public.

Every day, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and the other publications owned by the Hussman family publish a statement of core values that include "objectivity, impartiality, integrity and truth-seeking." This clear, sensible mantra consistently helps guide the work done by the reporters and editors in the paper's newsrooms.

Journalism is a pillar of our democracy. Our Founders understood the importance of a free press and included protections in the First Amendment that safeguard and ensure the ability of reporters and the publications they write for to hold the powerful to account.

Earlier this year, I was proud to support the World Press Freedom Day resolution and recognize the sacrifices journalists around the world make in their effort to report the truth.

We must continue to promote a free and open press in the United States and around the globe. In today's climate, we all share responsibility for acknowledging the value and the necessity of press freedom while at the same time not shrinking away from appropriate scrutiny and fair criticism. The health and well-being of our society and civic life depends on striking the right balance in this regard.

For 200 years, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette has kept individuals informed about moments and events of significance in Arkansas, our country, and the world. I congratulate the newspaper's leaders and staff for pursuing facts and accountability, as they have created and sustained the publication as a responsible and reliable source of information.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BIPARTISAN AMERICAN MINERS ACT

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I want to first say thank you to my colleagues, Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and Senators CAPITO, PORTMAN, JONES, KAINE, DUCKWORTH, BROWN, CASEY, DURBIN, WARNER, SINEMA, VAN HOLLEN, and REED, who have cosponsored this legislation with me, for standing with me to protect coal miners' pensions and healthcare, and specifically Senator CAPITO, who will be joining me here on the floor today.

Yesterday marked the 51st anniversary of the Farmington No. 9 disaster, where 78 coal miners lost their lives in the Consolidation Coal Company's No. 9 mine in Farmington, WV, which is my hometown. I lost my uncle John Gouzd in that mine explosion, I lost my neighbor John Sopuch, and I lost several of my classmates in that tragedy that rocked my hometown. It seems like only yesterday.

I have always said that one life lost while on the job is one too many. It

shouldn't happen. This tragedy shows the risk our coal miners take every day to provide our country with the energy we need, which is why I am here today.

When coal companies go bankrupt, coal miners' benefits are at the bottom of the priority list, which is how we have ended up in this situation today, and that is unacceptable. It should be unacceptable to all of us.

The person who earns the wage should be on the front end of the line when a bankruptcy happens, and whatever happens, they are taken care of first. Time is running out for our coal miners. We need it fixed now—not in a few weeks, not in 2020, but now. Year after year, our coal miners risk their lives to bring America the energy needed to become the world leader that we are today. Our coal miners made a commitment to our country, and now, it is our turn to uphold the commitment we made to them in 1946 by securing their hard-earned pensions in healthcare.

Let me tell you about the coal that we have in our country and has been mined by our hard-working coal miners since the beginning of the 20th century. That coal basically has fueled every war that we have been in, helped us win every war, helped propel us to the industrial might that we are today, built our factories. It has done everything for us, and all we are doing now is trying to make sure that the people that sacrificed all these years are taken care of.

We have 1,000 coal miners who will lose their healthcare coverage on December 31 of this year, a little over a month from now. We also have 12,000 more coal miners who will lose their healthcare in March of next year, and that is only 4 months away. This is an issue that must be dealt with immediately, and time is running out. If you are one of those 1,000 coal miners and one of your family members is depending on their healthcare—probably life-supporting healthcare—and they are thinking they are going to lose it at the end of this month, it is unconscionable for us to walk out of here and not get this piece of legislation down. With it being so bipartisan—having the majority leader from Kentucky representing the coal miners of Kentucky—this is something that needs to be done immediately, and I know that we can.

But if we don't pass this legislation to protect our miners, the UMWA pension fund will be insolvent by this time next year. With the largest privately owned coal company, Murray Energy, filing for bankruptcy 2 weeks ago, the timeline for the UMWA pension fund moved up 2 years. It accelerated a basically exacerbating position that we were in to begin with. Murray Energy, to date, has contributed over 97 percent of the money going into the UMWA pension fund annually because of the size of their company, which is why its bankruptcy has accelerated the situation we are in today with the pension fund insolvency.

Once the UMWA pension fund would become insolvent if we don't do something, this crisis will snowball and impact every other multi-employer pension fund in America. They will all start tumbling, along with the PBGC, which is a federally funded pension guarantee. That is why it is essential that we protect our coal miners' pensions now—not next year or the year after that—which is why my colleagues and I introduced the Bipartisan American Miners Act.

The Bipartisan American Miners Act would amend the current Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer funds in excess of the amounts needed to be meet existing obligations under the Abandoned Mine Land fund to the 1974 Pension Plan to prevent its looming insolvency. It also raises the cap on these funds from \$490 million to \$750 million to ensure that there is sufficient funding for those pension funds.

It also guarantees lifetime healthcare for the 13,000 individuals, including the 1,000 scheduled to lose their healthcare on December 31 of this year, by amending the Coal Act to include 2018 and 2019 bankruptcies in the miners' healthcare fix that passed in 2017. The funding for coal miners' pensions is already there. It just needs to be reallocated. These actions will secure the pensions of 92,000 coal miners and their families and protect healthcare benefits for 13,000 miners. That is our goal, and I am proud to be here fighting for these miners today because they surely have fought for me and given me the great country that I live in today.

These miners took home less pay every day from their paycheck with the expectations that they will be able to retire and provide for their families after working for decades for our country. They have paid what they are trying to receive. It is not something they are asking for, a handout. They are not asking for a Government handout or taxpayer handout. They are just wanting the money that they invested and paid into all of these years. It is money they did not take out.

Workers expect the wages they have contributed to be there when they retire, as they were promised. If we pass the Bipartisan American Miners Act as an amendment to the continuing resolution, we will protect coal miners' pensions and healthcare now before it is too late. The Bipartisan American Miners Act is ready to be voted on and has the support from both sides of the aisles. I just read off a list of our sponsors.

The Bipartisan American Miners Act is basically a piece of legislation that needs to be done immediately. If we don't pass it now, 1,000 miners, as I said before, will lose their healthcare on December 31. Healthcare benefits will be terminated, as we talked about, and then by early September 2020, the pension benefits of 82,000 current pensioners and 10,000 future pensioners

could be drastically reduced because of the plan's insolvency.

I want to remind you also that the average pension of a coal miner is less than \$600 a month. Most of these are widows. Their husbands have passed on, and they are living on this as a subsistence basically for their income. It would be tremendously harmful for them not to be able to receive this.

I believe that we can and will pass this legislation before it is too late for these miners as an amendment to the CR. That is all we are asking for. It must be done before and no later than December 20. I am trying to get this on now so that we can move forward.

Can you imagine being one of the 1,000 coal miners, maybe having one of your loved ones—your wife or one of your children—who has a serious illness and needs attention and knowing they are not going to be able to get attention basically to any healthcare after December 31, so put yourself in their shoes.

These are the families that deserve the peace of mind knowing that their pensions are going to be paid and their paycheck—that they did not take the money home—is going to be secure. We can give them peace of mind today. I look forward to passing this legislation with all of my colleagues. It is bipartisan. This is the first time we have had something of this magnitude being done in a bipartisan way. The good Lord knows we need more bipartisan efforts to work for the people.

If we are going to stand for the working men and women that made America, what is our purpose of being here, and who do we stand for? So I am asking all of you, please, with the urgency that is needed, please take up this piece of legislation. Please take up this amendment to the CR, and let's take care of the people that helped make America as great as we are today, the coal miners of the United Mine Workers of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am really pleased to be here with my fellow West Virginia Senator, Mr. MANCHIN. We have joined each other on this topic before, but he has been a real champion for our miners, and I am really grateful to him and others who have participated, but I think we have got to talk about this every day and make sure that we underscore the urgent need to pass the Bipartisan American Miners Act. I appreciate Senator MANCHIN and certainly appreciate Leader MCCONNELL who has been a

champion for our miners as well—Senator Portland as well—who have made this retirement security a top priority.

Back in 2017, time was running out on the healthcare benefits for 12,000 retired miners. I remember it well, particularly following the Patriot Coal bankruptcy. We came together as a bipartisan group to pass legislation with the House that protected healthcare for those men and women. While we are in a similar situation today, which we knew we were going to be here, the Senate needs to act soon to save the healthcare of 13,000 retired miners and protect the pension benefits of 92,000 people.

Time is of the essence here because roughly 1,000 retirees from Westmoreland and Mission Coal will lose their healthcare at the end of the year if we do not act; 12,000 more could lose their healthcare by next spring, and the pension benefits are at risk in 2020. This is a critical, critical issue for my State and many others.

I am going to take a brief moment to explain how this legislation works, and it is a bit complicated. In 2006, when we passed the last reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program, we had a capped permanent direct appropriation that was created for transfer of payments. That permanent direct appropriation, along with the interest on the AML—the Abandoned Mine Land—trust fund has been used to fund AML payments to certified States and to provide healthcare for our miners. What do we do to certify States? The whole point of the AML is to do reclamation and repair of previously mined lands all throughout our country.

That permanent direct appropriation has been used for the payments for the certified States and also to provide healthcare to our orphaned miners. Well, for those who are not from a coal company, what is an orphaned miner? An orphaned miner is someone who earned a vested right to retiree healthcare benefits through years of hard work but worked for a company that either no longer exists or is no longer financially solvent.

The Bipartisan American Miners Act makes use of the same appropriation that was created in 2006 to cover the healthcare for retirees whose healthcare would be lost due to the bankruptcies in 2018, 2019. The bill would provide resources to guarantee the long-term solvency of the mine workers' pension fund. This is critical. Previous versions of this bill that many of us supported were able to accomplish this goal of protecting those retirement beneficiaries without lifting the cap on the direct appropriation that was set in 2006.

Because Congress has delayed action for so long, our current legislation must lift the cap in order to provide healthcare and pension benefits for our miners. Protecting these benefits is a top priority for me because it impacts so many mining families and commu-

nities in West Virginia. Just last weekend, I talked to three miners directly impacted, just kind of randomly ran into them in different areas of our State.

But I think it is important to understand that this bill does not place other policy items in jeopardy. That is a misconception. Passing this bill does not disturb the principal balance of the AML trust fund. That means we are not jeopardizing funds that are used to clean up abandoned mine sites, and passing this bill will not cut funding for other transfer payments that are authorized by the law.

What the bill will do is protect retirement benefits for tens of thousands of retired miners and their families—benefits that have been worked for, benefits that have been earned through the hard work in our mines; 25,451 West Virginians received benefits from the pension fund during 2018. They were joined by more than 11,000 Pennsylvanians, 8,500 Kentuckians, and thousands more from Illinois, Virginia, Alabama, and Ohio. The pension benefits of all the men and women are at risk if Congress fails to act.

The average benefit—listen to this—the average benefit for our miners is \$590 a month, so these are not lavish benefits, but they are critical to our retirees. One retired miner from Logan, WV, who worked for 36 years in the mines, wrote me and said, “Please keep fighting to save our pension. I receive \$303.34 monthly. We need this badly to help us pay for our food, our medicine and other bills.”

A miner from Richwood, WV, who mined coal for 17 years, wrote, “My monthly check is \$192. It is not a lot of money, but it means a lot to my ability to make ends meet.”

I would add to both of these, these men, these gentlemen, they worked for these pensions. They paid into the pensions. They should receive them. Pension benefits from the mine workers plan went to individuals in all 55 West Virginian counties, so this is truly an issue that impacts my entire State. But in the areas that have the largest number of pensioners, which is Raleigh, Logan, Wyoming, Marion, and Boone Counties, cuts to the pension and healthcare benefits of our retired families would have significant impacts on our entire community.

If these retirees face severe reductions in their pensions, it means less money spent at the local businesses, less money at a local restaurant, and it would cause further economic harm to the areas that cannot afford another blow.

So I ask my colleagues to join me, Senator MANCHIN, Leader McCONNELL, Senator PORTMAN, and many others, by supporting the Bipartisan American Miners Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on

the Brouillette nomination occur at 1:30 p.m. today.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1250

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to present an amendment to this bill. My amendment is simple, and it reflects the kind of commonsense budgeting we ought to be doing in Washington. Today I offer the penny plan for infrastructure. This plan cuts one penny, 1 percent of all spending, and puts that money in a fund for infrastructure.

My amendment would put about \$12 billion per year into a fund to fix our roads and bridges. Every agency would still get 99 percent of the spending they got the previous year. Sure, they would need to trim some fat, but they would still be fine. A lot of businesses and organizations will tell you they have to cut much greater than 1 percent a year.

I visited a business recently that in the downturn of 2008–2009 had to cut 30 percent of their expenditures. Business men and women in America are used to having to cut expenditures; government never does.

Whether it is our highways or our bridges or our waterways, our infrastructure in America is falling behind. Everyone knows it, but like so many things, Washington can't figure out how to fix it, how to find the money to fix it.

Politicians on both sides of the aisle talk about trillion-dollar infrastructure plans but offer no way to pay for it. My plan is much more modest, doesn't increase taxes, and doesn't increase our debt. The penny plan for infrastructure pays for it with money we have already allocated.

To be clear, we do have the money. Washington just spends it in inappropriate ways. Washington spends, for example, \$233 million on a single highway in Afghanistan. We have money to pave roads in Afghanistan, but they will not vote to spend the money here to pave roads.

The people in Afghanistan got \$233 million for a road, but they couldn't even maintain it, so we gave them another \$22 million to maintain the road.

We spent \$326 million to pave 2,000 kilometers of dirt roads in Afghanistan. We have enough money to spend over \$300 million to pave dirt roads in Afghanistan, but we can't come up with \$1 billion to help our infrastructure here. They were supposed to pave 2,000 kilometers; it turned out they only paved 159 kilometers. They paved less than 10 percent of what they actually promised to do with the money. What is that equal to—\$2.7 million per mile.

It is outrageous, and it goes on year after year after year. I think it is time we try a new way. Just in Afghanistan, we have spent more than the Marshall Plan did to rebuild Europe after the devastation of World War II, and we are still there, spending good money after bad. So when people come up here and

say that a 1-percent cut would somehow be a disaster, we need to remind them that the money is there. They just have to listen to the people and pull the plug on this kind of crazy spending overseas.

My amendment would move 1 percent of current spending, and it would put that 1 percent of the current spending bill into infrastructure.

Supposedly, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all agree on infrastructure. Yet we don't allocate more money to it because we are too busy paving roads in Afghanistan. If we did this, it would be about \$12 billion. It is not enough to fix everything in the country. It is a modest sum. This is actually a modest proposal to move over a few billion dollars.

Do you know what it would do? Twelve billion dollars would pave up to 6,200 miles of a new four-lane highway, resurface 20,000 miles of a four-lane highway, and 2,200 miles of a six-lane interstate. It would pay for multiple big-ticket infrastructure projects that are currently stuck without funding. In my State, they have been advocating money for the Brent Spence Bridge across the Ohio River since before I was elected—8 or 9 years of advocating for a bridge for which we can't find the money. We have the money. Quit paving roads in Afghanistan, and let's start building bridges and paving roads here.

This amendment would improve our infrastructure, benefit our communities, eliminate government waste, and help our economy. By cutting 1 percent of the current spending, we will force all of government to do a better job.

There is at least 1 percent waste. There is probably 10 percent waste in government. I am asking to cut 1 percent of waste. Take that money you cut by making government more efficient and put it into infrastructure.

I encourage the Senate to consider this amendment. I think we have very few amendments come forward where people have a chance to vote for infrastructure.

At this point, I move to concur on the House amendment to the Senate amendment—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator suspend?

Mr. PAUL. At this point, I am about ready to do that.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020, AND FURTHER HEALTH EXTENDERS ACT OF 2019

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3055) entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and

Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.", with an amendment to the Senate amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1250

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, with a further amendment numbered 1250.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, with an amendment numbered 1250.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce the amount appropriated by 1 percent and put the savings towards the Highway Trust Fund and certain Environmental Protection Agency Infrastructure Assistance)

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

SEC. ____ . REDUCTION IN RATE FOR OPERATIONS.

The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020 (division A of Public Law 116-59) is further amended by inserting after section 150, as added by section 101 of this division, the following:

"SEC. 151. REDUCTION IN CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE SAVINGS FOR THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE.

"(a) REDUCTION IN CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the rate for operations provided by section 101 is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The rate for operations shall not be reduced under paragraph (1) for the following:

"(A) Amounts made available from the Highway Trust Fund established by section 9503(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"(B) Amounts for purposes described in section 147.

"(C) For the Environmental Protection Agency, Infrastructure Assistance, amounts made available for the following:

"(i) The Clean Water State Revolving Funds and the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

"(ii) The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program Account.

"(iii) The America's Water Infrastructure Act Grant Programs under section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a).

"(b) TRANSFER OF SAVINGS.—

"(1) DETERMINATION OF SAVINGS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the amount of the reduction in amounts made available under section 101 of this division that is attributable to subsection (a).

"(2) TRANSFER.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount determined under paragraph (1), as follows:

"(A) For the Highway Trust Fund established by section 9503(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 95 percent of such amount.

"(B) For the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, 3 percent of such amount.

"(C) For the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program Account, 1 percent of such amount.

"(D) For the America's Water Infrastructure Act Grant Programs under section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a), 1 percent of such amount.

"(3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts transferred under paragraph (2) shall remain available until expended."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to table the Paul amendment, but I just want to say a few words.

This continuing resolution before the Senate holds spending at the fiscal 2019 levels. An arbitrary 1-percent across-the-board cut on top of this—although it sounds good—would be extremely harmful to our agencies, particularly our military.

The Senate handily defeated similar amendments just recently, and I hope we will do this today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will be brief.

I agree with the distinguished senior Senator from Alabama. The Paul amendment imposes a 1-percent across-the-board cut over last year's funding level to the vast majority of discretionary spending for the duration of the CR.

I hope all Members—Republican and Democratic alike—will oppose it because it would mean arbitrary cuts in defense and other national security programs, cuts to veterans' healthcare, education, childcare, opioid programs, just to name a few. It is a simplistic tool that ignores the complexities of our Federal budget. It is not a way we should govern.

We have the hard work of making hard choices to fund programs each year based on reality. That is what we should do. That is what the American people deserve.

I support increased investment in our Nation's infrastructure. I would be happy to work with Senator PAUL to ensure these programs receive the resources they require.

I hope he might be able to get some support from the Trump administration, which has consistently proposed cutting resources to improve our Nation's infrastructure. I hope he might be able to get that kind of support, but funding it through an across-the-board cut on all other programs, including veterans healthcare, national security, and education programs is irresponsible. It is not the answer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to table the Paul amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 363 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Alexander, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Collins, Coons, Cortez Masto, Cramer, Duckworth, Durbin, Enzi, Feinstein, Gardner, Gillibrand, Graham, Grassley, Hassan, Hawley, Heinrich, Hirono, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Isakson, Johnson, Kaine, King, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, Menendez, Merkley, Moran, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Perdue, Peters, Portman, Reed, Roberts, Rosen, Rounds, Rubio, Schatz, Schumer, Scott (FL), Shaheen, Shelby, Sinema, Smith, Stabenow, Tester, Thune, Toomey, Udall, Van Hollen, Warner, Whitehouse, Wicker, Wyden, Young.

NAYS—20

Table listing Senators who voted 'NAYS' with names in three columns: Barrasso, Blackburn, Braun, Cornyn, Crapo, Cruz, Daines, Ernst, Fischer, Kennedy, Lankford, Lee, McSally, Paul, Risch, Romney, Sasse, Scott (SC), Sullivan, Tillis.

NOT VOTING—7

Table listing Senators who did not vote with names in three columns: Booker, Cassidy, Cotton, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, Warren.

The motion was agreed to. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the votes following the first vote in this series be 10 minutes in length.

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

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055.

CLOTURE MOTION

I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to concur.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending Sep-

tember 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran, Richard C. Shelby, Lamar Alexander, Susan M. Collins, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Lisa Murkowski, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran, Richard C. Shelby, Lamar Alexander, Susan M. Collins, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Lisa Murkowski, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations to the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rules.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 364 Leg.]

YEAS—75

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Alexander, Baldwin, Barrasso, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Coons, Cornyn, Cortez Masto, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo, Collins, Coons, Cornyn, Cortez Masto, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo.

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Duckworth, Durbin, Feinstein, Gardner, Gillibrand, Graham, Grassley, Hassan, Heinrich, Hirono, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Isakson, Johnson, Jones, Kaine, Kennedy, King, Lankford, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, McSally, Menendez, Merkley, Moran, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Peters, Portman, Reed, Roberts, Rosen, Rubio, Schatz, Schumer, Scott (SC), Shaheen, Shelby, Sinema, Smith, Stabenow, Sullivan, Tester, Thune, Udall, Van Hollen, Warner, Whitehouse, Wicker, Wyden, Young.

NAYS—19

Table listing Senators who voted 'NAYS' with names in three columns: Blackburn, Braun, Cruz, Daines, Enzi, Ernst, Fischer, Hawley, Inhofe, Lee, Paul, Perdue, Risch, Romney, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, Warren.

NOT VOTING—6

Table listing Senators who did not vote with names in three columns: Booker, Cassidy, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, Warren.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 75, the nays are 19.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 365 Leg.]

YEAS—74

Table listing Senators who voted 'YEAS' with names in three columns: Alexander, Baldwin, Barrasso, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Collins, Coons, Cornyn, Cortez Masto, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo, Duckworth, Durbin, Feinstein, Gardner, Gillibrand, Graham, Grassley, Hassan, Heinrich, Hirono, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Isakson, Johnson, Jones, Kaine, Kennedy, King, Lankford, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, McSally, Menendez, Merkley, Moran, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Peters, Portman, Reed, Roberts, Rosen, Rubio, Schatz, Schumer, Shaheen, Shelby, Sinema, Smith.

Stabenow	Udall	Wicker
Sullivan	Van Hollen	Wyden
Tester	Warner	Young
Thune	Whitehouse	

NAYS—20

Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)
Daines	Paul	Scott (SC)
Enzi	Perdue	Tillis
Ernst	Risch	Toomey
Fischer	Romney	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Harris	Sanders
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Warren

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3055

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 75, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 75) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3055.

There being no objection, the senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion 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 (H. Con. Res. 75) was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 386.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025. (Reappointment)

Kevin Cramer, David Perdue, Ben Sasse, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Rick Scott, James E. Risch, Shelley Moore Capito.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 150

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor again with respect to S. Res. 150, which I introduced with Senator CRUZ, to recognize the Armenian Genocide. I am glad that he is with me today in a call for unanimous consent on this resolution. We are proud to report that we have 28 sponsors on this important resolution.

Last month, the House of Representatives passed a version of this resolution by a vote of 405-11-405-11. That sent a strong bipartisan message of dedication to the truth—dedication to historical fact, dedication to a principle held by so many in Congress—that genocide is genocide.

As a country, we should do whatever we can to prevent future genocides, but when it happens, we have an obligation as a country to call it what it is. If not, we operate without the facts outside of reality. We aren't being honest to ourselves and to the world. This resolution gives us that reckoning and sets the record straight, a record that so many administrations over the years have sought to obscure. These administrations, Republican and Democrat, have dug their heads into the sand, despite the words of U.S. diplomats who were there at the time, who saw the genocide with their own eyes.

Let me just share a couple of examples. Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, from 1913 to 1916, wrote in his memoir that, "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal this fact. I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915." This was Henry Morgenthau Ambassador's quote.

On June 5, 1915, the United States Consul in Aleppo, Jesse Jackson, wrote, "There is a living stream of Armenians pouring into Aleppo from the surrounding towns and villages, the principal ones being Marash, Zeitoun, Hasanbeyli, Osmania, Baghtche, Adana, Dortyol, Hadjin.

"The Ottoman Government has been appealed to by various prominent people and even those in authority to put an end to these conditions, under the representations that it can only lead to the greatest blame and reproach, but all to no avail. It is without doubt a carefully planned scheme to thoroughly extinguish the Armenian race."

On July 24, 1915, in a report to Ambassador Morgenthau, the U.S. Consul in Harput, Leslie Davis, stated, "Any doubt that may have been expressed in previous reports as to the Government's intention in sending away the Armenians have been removed. It has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race. Everything was apparently planned months ago."

And, finally, on October 1, 1916, a telegram to the Secretary of State Robert Lansing, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires Hoffman Philip wrote, "The department is in receipt of ample details demonstrating the horrors of the anti-Armenian campaign. For many months past I felt that the most efficacious method for dealing with the situation from an international standpoint would be to flatly threaten to withdraw our Diplomatic Representative from a country where such barbarous methods are not only tolerated but actually carried out by order of the existing Government."

Finally, Abram Elkus, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1916 to 1917, telegraphed the Secretary of State at the time on October 17, 1916, stating "In order to avoid opprobrium of the civilized world, which the continuation of massacres [of the Armenians] would arouse, Turkish officials have now adopted and are executing the unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."

American officials, those with the most credible and legitimate understanding of what took place, made these statements. They are part of the historical record, and they mark one of the prouder moments in the history of the State Department and our diplomacy.

Finally, there are 27 countries in the world that have already recognized the Armenian genocide. Eleven of them are NATO countries: Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovakia. None of them have ruptured their relationship with Turkey. None of them have ended their relationship with Turkey as it relates to recognizing the Armenian genocide as a historical fact.

Why is the greatest country on the face of the earth, the United States of America, incapable—incapable—of doing this when these 11 NATO countries haven't? So I want to thank the many individuals over the years, particularly the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Assembly, and so many others, who have worked so hard alongside me to ensure the U.S. abides by its commitment to the truth and to a world where genocide truly never happens again.

I have had a good friend and colleague who has been engaged with me in this latest effort, and I want to yield to him at this time, Senator CRUZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I am proud to join with my friend and my colleague from New Jersey today in urging the Senate to take up and pass the resolution affirming U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out a forced deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians, of whom 1.5 million were killed. It was an atrocious genocide. That it happened is a reality that no amount of political doublespeak can cover up.

In fact, the word "genocide," which literally means the killing of an entire people, was coined by Raphael Lemkin to describe the horrific nature of the Ottoman Empire's calculated extermination of the Armenians. That is the genesis of the word "genocide."

As America, we must never be silent in response to atrocities. Over 100 years ago, the world sat silently as the Armenian people suffered and were systematically murdered. Many people today are still unaware of what happened. With this resolution—a bipartisan resolution—we are saying it is a policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

Let me echo what my colleague from New Jersey just said. Doing so is not incompatible with continuing to deal with Turkey as an ally. Just last week, I sat down with President Erdogan and President Trump in the oval office. Turkey is a NATO ally and an important one, but friends and allies can speak the truth, and we are not honoring America and who we stand for if we are afraid to speak the truth and willing to participate in covering it up. We have a moral duty to acknowledge what happened to 1.5 million innocent souls. It is the right thing to do, and it is my hope that the Senate will do so in a bipartisan manner.

I yield back the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Therefore, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 150 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. I am reserving the right to object.

Mr. President, just yesterday, Secretary Pompeo joined the foreign ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, including Foreign Minister Cavusoglu from Turkey. Secretary Pompeo had quite a lot to discuss with him, as this administration continues its engagement with Turkey's leadership on the heels of President Trump's meeting with President Erdogan last week. In light of these diplomatic efforts, I respectfully object to this resolution at this time.

While the content of the legislation before us merits undivided consideration, its passage would undermine the administration's overcoming real challenges in our bilateral relationship with Turkey. I look forward to working with the administration and Senator CRUZ and Senator MENENDEZ in holding our NATO ally responsible for its commitment made when it joined the NATO community of like-minded nations founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am not new to this issue. I have been pursuing recognition of the Armenian genocide for the greater part of a decade, and there always seems to be some reason why, in fact, it is not a good moment. Well, it is like a rope-a-dope. It is like a rope-a-dope. There is always another reason. There is always another excuse.

The 11 NATO allies have done this, and they are still in NATO and still working with Turkey and still have diplomatic relationships with Turkey. It is amazing to me the greatest power on the face of this earth can't just speak truth of history. It amazes me. And so there never seems to be a good moment.

Now, I have been here in the Senate long enough to know that objections to unanimous consent work both ways, so I am going to continue to bring this issue to the floor. I think Armenian Americans, the world, and history should record who stands on the side of recognizing genocide for what it is and who is not, and so I am not going to relax. If necessary, I am sure there will be moments in which those will seek consent on issues, and if the only way is to get a vote on this through the actual process on the floor, then I will force that issue because history demands it. Our conscience should call for it, and a decade of waiting to make this happen is enough.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator MENENDEZ always speaking up for human rights, regardless who the President is, regardless of any colleagues running for President, whenever the President calls on them, and Senator MENENDEZ has always been a Senator here that stands up for his principles on international human rights.

BIPARTISAN AMERICAN MINERS ACT

Mr. President, thank you to Senator MANCHIN and all of my colleagues for coming to the floor earlier today to remind this body that we need to act now on behalf of almost 90,000 miners who are living under the threat of massive cuts for the pensions they earned; 1,200 miners and their families could lose their healthcare by the end of the year because of the Westmoreland and Murray bankruptcies. That leaves us about a month.

The bankruptcy court could allow these corporations to "shed their liabilities," which is a fancy way of saying they could walk away from paying miners the benefits they have earned.

Two years ago, we worked to save thousands of miners' healthcare. We have to do it again. We can't leave these workers behind to lose their healthcare over the holidays just because of the date their companies filed for bankruptcy. We have to make sure they don't lose their retirement security on top of that.

All 86,000 UMW miners are facing crippling pension cuts. They aren't alone. This retirement security of hundreds of thousands of teamsters and ironworkers and carpenters and many other retirees and workers is also at risk. The crisis facing their pensions is real. It is immediate. It can have ripple effects across the country.

This week, the PBGC released a new report showing it could run out of money even sooner, and we should be concerned about that. If the multi-employer system collapses, if PBGC fails, we are looking at a potential recession. Small businesses that have been in the family for generations could face bankruptcy. Workers will lose jobs at businesses forced to close up shop. Retirees will face crippling cuts to their income.

Congress gave Wall Street a bailout a decade ago after they wrecked people's lives. These miner workers did what they were supposed to do. They gave up money at the bargaining table to put money aside for healthcare and pensions later. Is Congress going to abandon them? This is about our values. This is about whose side you are on. It is about the dignity of work. We should be committed to these miners, for these workers, these retirees. We should not give up. We are continuing to work for a bipartisan solution.

It comes down to the dignity of work. When people have dignity, when work has dignity, we honor the retirement security they have earned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I think we are running a few minutes behind. We have had a real crush of business here in the last hour. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF DAN R. BROUILLETTE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, every Senator knows the House is now in the middle of an impeachment inquiry. Here in this Chamber, the Senate has been considering the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be Energy Secretary, replacing Rick Perry.

In my view, questions about Secretary Perry's conduct in Ukraine—and what Mr. Brouillette may know about that conduct—tie this nomination to the impeachment inquiry in an important way. I have come to believe there are several significant unanswered questions about Secretary Perry's role in changing the board of a state-owned energy company called Naftogaz.

What Secretary Perry, his campaign donors, and certain crooked associates of Rudy Giuliani stood to gain from those changes is something the Senate ought to be digging into. We have been hearing about Secretary Perry's role in Donald Trump's scheme with respect to withholding a meeting and military aid until Ukrainian President Zelensky agreed to interfere in the 2020 elections in the United States.

The investigations seem to be piling up. Every time a new piece of information comes to light, it raises yet more and more questions about schemes that sure look, based on the facts, to be corrupt. Somehow, Secretary Perry seems to be making his way out the door without facing much, if any, scrutiny. Now the Senate is trying to fast-track his replacement.

I will put it simply: Enough, enough. It is time for the Senate to get some answers instead of just saying everything is A-OK at the Energy Department.

I am going to take just a few minutes to explain what this is all about. Mr. PERRY is famously one of the "three amigos" who took control of U.S. ties with Ukraine under the direction of the President and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani. Secretary Perry attended President Zelensky's inauguration in May. They held a private meeting. It has been reported that Secretary Perry pushed President Zelensky to fire members of the board of Naftogaz—a Ukrainian energy giant—and replace them with Secretary Perry's own political donors.

At a second meeting with Ukrainian government and energy sector officials, Secretary Perry reportedly said the entire board ought to be replaced. The Associated Press reported that one person who attended the meeting said that "he was floored by the American requests because the person had always viewed the U.S. government 'as having a higher ethical standard.'"

The changes Secretary Perry was seeking lined up with changes sought by two shady characters named Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, associates of Rudy Giuliani's. They also wanted different leadership at Naftogaz.

I am going to read now from an Associated Press report.

As Rudy Giuliani was pushing Ukrainian officials last spring to investigate one of Donald Trump's main political rivals, a group of individuals with ties to the president and his personal lawyer were also active in the former Soviet republic. Their aims were profit, not politics.

This circle of businessmen and Republican donors touted connections to Giuliani and Trump while trying to install new management at the top of Ukraine's massive state gas company. Their plan was to then steer lucrative contracts to companies controlled by Trump allies, according to two people with knowledge of their plans.

Federal prosecutors are now investigating Rudy Giuliani's role. A Naftogaz official is reportedly cooperating in the investigation, and some of Rick Perry's political donors did get a lucrative oil and gas deal in Ukraine after Perry began pressuring the Ukrainian President for changes.

Perry admits he was in contact with Giuliani about Ukraine. It was also revealed in impeachment testimony that Perry was seemingly made aware in July of the Trump scheme where it seemed like everybody was involved in Ukraine.

To get it straight, I think this is the bottom line: Secretary Perry has somehow managed to stay on the fringes of this whole scheme, but it sure looks to me like he was right at the heart of serious ethical compromises. President Trump has claimed he made the call to Ukraine's President that prompted the whistleblower's complaint at Perry's request. Everywhere you look in the Ukraine scandal, it looks like there is crooked behavior all over.

I have a hard time believing that Secretary Perry booked his own flight for these meetings, sauntered out the back door of the Energy Department, and freelanced his own shady Ukraine policy without anybody knowing about it.

That brings me back to the Brouillette nomination. Dan Brouillette is currently the Deputy Energy Secretary. He is the No. 2 person at the Department. He is the Deputy to the "amigo."

At his confirmation hearing, sitting on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which I at one time chaired, I thought it was important to ask Mr. Brouillette some basic questions about what I have outlined here. What I wanted to know wasn't real complicated: Whom did Secretary Perry meet with regarding Ukraine and Naftogaz? He was a powerful guy, and he wielded major influence over a nation that is dependent on aid from the United States as it resists aggression by Russia. Who else was in the loop with Secretary Perry?

Deputy Secretary Brouillette acknowledged in my questions only that

there were meetings but provided no further details about who took part in them. In followup written questions, again, he just wasn't forthcoming. He wouldn't provide any answers.

I am sending a letter to Deputy Secretary Brouillette to give him yet another chance to answer basic questions: To whom was Mr. Brouillette referring when he acknowledged Perry held meetings on seeking changes at Naftogaz; when and where did those meetings take place; to whom outside the Department did Secretary Perry speak regarding changes in Naftogaz and the substance of those communications; and then, whether Department staff were involved in meetings at which changes to Naftogaz leadership came up, who the staff were, and what materials were produced.

I will make it clear, I find it implausible the Secretary of Energy was unstaffed on all this. I would think, for an important meeting like this, Secretary Perry would have individuals from the Department of Energy who were involved in these discussions that Mr. Brouillette has now acknowledged took place, but we can't get any names. We can't get any answers at all.

I think it is seriously an error for the Senate to just rush to this nomination without getting answers to the questions I have outlined. Indictments are flying. Investigations reveal major wrongdoing. Every stone that gets overturned in this process reveals a lot more generally about a rotten scheme. It just seems to me that Secretary Perry is a significant figure in this scandal, and he is just trying to get out of dodge.

To me, this ought to be an opportunity for this body, the U.S. Senate, to stand up and demand accountability from the Trump administration and all of those in the administration who can provide information that, I think, provides a modest amount of information—a modest amount of information—about discussions that could very well be relevant to this whole Ukraine scheme.

Mr. Giuliani already had associates indicted. Just yesterday, there were differences of opinion in the testimony about what Mr. PERRY's involvement was all about. Practically every day there are unanswered questions about this matter. Because I believe the Senate deserves to have answers to the questions I have raised, because I think this is just accountability 101 to have this information, I will be voting no today on cloture. My understanding is that no matter how the Senate is recorded today, there will be some opportunity over the holiday break for Senators, staff, and those who are doing investigative work on this to get more details. I certainly think that without the question I have been asking and the modest amount of information they would disclose—information, frankly, I think Secretary Perry, the Energy Department, and the Trump administration could produce quite

quickly if they didn't want to spend the time stonewalling—I think given that, it is not responsible to advance this nomination through an affirmative cloture vote today, so I will be voting no. My hope is that over the next week or so, we can start to get some answers to these basic questions.

I will tell you, I have just gone through five townhall meetings at home in rural and urban areas. Everybody I represent at home thinks there ought to be more accountability in Washington, DC, rather than less.

Without answers to the questions I have outlined today, there is no question that with respect to accountability, the Senate, by voting cloture today, would be settling for less.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased that at any moment now, we will move to invoke cloture on the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be Secretary of Energy. As folks know, he is currently serving as our Deputy Secretary of Energy. In my view, he has excelled in that role since being confirmed by this body in a strong bipartisan vote back in August of 2017. He has run the Department on a daily basis. He has been helping Secretary Perry set an agenda that has been focused on energy security and technological innovation. He has been a good partner of the Energy Committee—honest, open, and responsive. I have certainly appreciated all of his leadership.

We commend him to this body. He did very well in his nomination hearing before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I believe he will do very well in his new role. I encourage all Members to work with us to confirm him as soon as possible today.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 74, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 366 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Alexander	Fischer	Peters
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hassan	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Heinrich	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Carper	Johnson	Shaheen
Casey	Jones	Shelby
Collins	Kaine	Sinema
Cooms	Kennedy	Smith
Cornyn	King	Stabenow
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Duckworth	Murkowski	Udall
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Enzi	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	

NAYS—18

Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Leahy	Schatz
Blumenthal	Markey	Schumer
Brown	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkeley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 74, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Ohio.

NASA PLUM BROOK STATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I would like to talk about a couple of topics.

First, I thank my colleagues on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee for very recently approving legislation to rename the NASA Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, OH, after Ohio's own and a true American hero—the late Neil Armstrong. I now, of course, urge that this legislation be taken up by the full Senate and that we get it passed. There is an identical bill in the House. We hope to join both bills so that it may be sent to the President for his signature very soon.

The NASA Plum Brook Station is a state-of-the-art testing facility. It is near Sandusky, OH, and is a terrific facility that is doing a lot of the testing right now for both NASA and some private sector companies. It is part of the NASA Glenn complex that is headquartered in Cleveland, OH.

It is an impressive operation for a lot of reasons, but the one that is most exciting right now is their work on the Artemis Project. This is, of course, NASA's plan to put astronauts back on the Moon by 2024, including having the first woman go to the Moon. This mission will also lay the groundwork for future expeditions to the next great leap in spaceflight—that, of course, being a manned mission to Mars. It is exciting stuff.

At Plum Brook, they are already testing critical components of the rocket engines that are scheduled to carry Artemis astronauts into space starting next year. Very soon, they are going to be testing the spacecraft itself. We hope it will arrive at Plum Brook within the next few weeks where it will undergo about 4 months of testing.

This past summer, I and my colleague, Ohio Senator SHERROD BROWN, introduced this legislation to rename the facility after Neil Armstrong, and we did so on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, from which, of course, Neil Armstrong became world famous for being the first person to walk on the surface of the Moon.

Ultimately, Neil Armstrong was a test pilot. We think of him as an astronaut. Some know that he was also a fighter pilot and that he was a veteran of the Korean conflict. He was just an amazing individual—humble, smart. He was a very patriotic individual. How appropriate and perfect that as a test pilot, which he was during his whole post-fighter pilot career until his time as an astronaut, Plum Brook be named after him.

By the way, Neil's family agrees with that, as does NASA, and as do others we have talked to. So we are hoping that this will be a fitting way to honor a man who, for all of his accomplishments, saw himself, first and foremost, as a patriot who pushed the boundaries of flight. Therefore, the test facility is very dear to them.

I talked to him about this test facility. After one of my visits there, I went to see him at his home and told him about the progress they were making. At that time, they were trying to revamp some of the facilities there. He was really excited about it. He was a very modest man and did not want things named after him. He viewed his service to his country as the reward. That is all he ever wanted in life. That makes it all the more fitting that we, in fact, do name this after him. It is a great model for young people and, certainly, for those who are interested in avionics and spacecraft and in being astronauts. His example is one we should all look up to.

When this comes to the Senate floor for a vote, I hope all of my colleagues will support it, and I hope that it will happen very soon.

THOUSAND TALENTS PLAN

Mr. President, there was a very troubling report that was issued this week by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. This is a tough subject. In this report, it details for the very first time how taxpayers' dollars have been used, really, over the past 20 years to fund scientific research that has then been misappropriated by one of our global competitors—China—to fuel its own economy and its own military growth.

What do I mean by that? What happened?

Every year, Federal grant-making agencies, like the National Institutes of Health—the NIH—or the Department of Energy's National Labs or the National Science Foundation, give out taxpayers' dollars for research—actually, about \$150 billion a year.

This is a good thing for us as a country. It leads to new breakthroughs in science and technology, healthcare, weapons systems, and so on. Through research grants, this money goes primarily to universities and to other research institutions across the United States. This investment has been very helpful in making the United States the world leader in scientific innovation. Again, it has resulted in some amazing breakthroughs.

Our U.S. research is built on some principles here in this country. One is transparency. Another is collaboration. Others are integrity, peer review, and a merit-based system. In fact, the open and collaborative nature of the research that is done here in the United States is one of the reasons we attract some of the best and brightest scientists and researchers from all around the world. That is a good thing. Yet, without proper protections, this research is vulnerable to theft by other countries, and that is exactly what has happened.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, along with Ranking Member TOM CARPER, conducted an 8-month investigation into how American taxpayer-funded research has been taken by China—effectively stolen—to assist its own economy and its own military. China has been very open about its goals to surpass the United States as the world leader in science and technology by the middle of this century.

An important part of this effort is what China calls its talent recruitment programs. Through talent recruitment programs, China has strategically and systematically acquired knowledge and intellectual property from researchers and scientists in the United States in both the public and private sectors.

In the course of our investigation, the FBI shared with us that China plans to spend more than \$2 trillion between 2008 and 2020 toward improving its human capital, which includes re-

cruiting and developing researchers and scientists.

The Thousand Talents Plan, which was the focus of our investigation, is now in its 11th year of operation, and it is probably China's most prominent talent recruitment program. However, there are about 200 or more other talent recruitment programs as well.

Launched in 2008, China designed the Thousand Talents Plan to recruit 2,000 high-quality, overseas experts and to get their knowledge and their expertise and their research. By 2017, China had exceeded that initial goal by recruiting more than 7,000 of what they call "high-end professionals," including many from American research institutions.

Some of the U.S.-based researchers, of course, also receive taxpayer-funded Federal grant money we talked about earlier to do the same research right here in the United States. In exchange for spending part of every year working in Chinese institutions, the Thousand Talents Plan recruits are rewarded with generous salaries and research budgets, sometimes even exceeding their pay at the American research institutions where, in practice, they are working. These researchers also often get access to what is called a shadow lab in science. In other words, they provide them not just with funding, but they also say: We will provide you lab space in China.

At our hearing yesterday, the Department of Energy witness testified that China offered some of his researchers hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars to join a talent recruitment program.

For a researcher here, the Thousand Talents Plan might seem like a good opportunity, but it certainly is not a good opportunity for the United States, especially because embedded in the language of some of these contracts these researchers sign are very troubling provisions that prevent these recruits from disclosing their participation in the Thousand Talents Plan even though disclosing foreign payments is required by U.S. regulations. Not only is this dishonest, but it is also a clear violation of the American regulations that require researchers who apply for these grants we are talking about—this \$150 billion of taxpayer money—to disclose any funding they are receiving from a foreign source. In effect, what is happening with the Thousand Talents Plan is that it is incentivizing these program members to lie on grant applications to U.S. grant-funding agencies to avoid disclosing their funding from Chinese institutions.

What is worse, in many of these contracts, researchers are often required to transfer to China the technological breakthroughs—the research—that are being developed in American labs with American grant money. There are a lot of examples we found in our 8-month study. Let me talk about a couple quickly.

In one, we learned that a Thousand Talents Plan recruit at the Depart-

ment of Energy's National Labs used the intellectual property created during his work in a National Lab to file for a U.S. patent under the name of a Chinese company, effectively stealing the federally funded research and claiming it for China.

Another Thousand Talents Plan member illegally downloaded more than 30,000 files from a National Lab—this is connected with Department of Energy funding—without authorization right before returning to China.

Once China has it, some of this research could be used to threaten the national security of the United States. As an example, the State Department witness testified at our hearing yesterday that "the Chinese Communist Party has declared the Chinese university system to be on the front line of military-civilian fusion efforts for technological acquisition for weapons research and the expansion of key scientific and engineering talent to drive Chinese innovation." That is pretty obvious. That is what all of our witnesses, in essence, said.

This is not a new problem. We found out through our investigation that the Federal Government should have known about this issue for almost two decades but has yet to do anything substantial to stop it. It is unacceptable that we have allowed this to go on as long as we have.

These talent programs are a win-win for China and a lose-lose for the United States. First, the Chinese Government and their research entities are getting research that is paid for by us. Second, it is not used by us. That research is used in China to improve their own economic and military status.

So why is it taking so long for us to do anything about this problem? I think there are a couple of reasons.

First, a lot of the U.S. research community didn't fully understand the Thousand Talents Plan and the threat it poses. Even though this one program is more than a decade old at this point, it wasn't until last year that the FBI began organizing a unified Federal response to the threat it has been posing to our universities and research institutions. We have been slow to focus on this issue, and therefore it has continued.

I appreciated the FBI's candor at the hearing yesterday, by the way, when the FBI Assistant Director testified that he wished the FBI had "taken more rapid and comprehensive action in the past." I do too.

Second, I think one reason this hasn't been stopped is that the coordination between the grant-making agencies is almost as bad as the coordination with the Federal law enforcement folks, meaning that they aren't talking to each other about problems they have had, about particular instances regarding some of the research that has been taken.

As I said, we are talking about more than \$150 billion of taxpayer money every year that goes to these agencies,

but once these funds are in the agencies' hands, we found no evidence of a unified and coordinated tracking and monitoring process to ensure that the money did not go toward the Thousand Talents Plan participants or other programs. The National Science Foundation, for instance, doesn't seem to have anyone who handles grant oversight in this regard. These research entities need to share information on these issues.

But other organizations are at fault too. We found that the State Department is on the frontlines due to its responsibilities to vet visa applications for visiting students and scholars, but it very rarely denies visas under that process.

Quite frankly, the research community here in the United States bears some responsibility too. There has been a collective failure by our universities and our research institutions to vet researchers for these conflicts of interest with other countries. Again, this is made worse by the fact that many of these researchers are receiving taxpayer funds to conduct their research here.

It is going to take a comprehensive strategy across the Federal Government to better protect our research against this threat. Our report makes a number of recommendations that, combined, will go a long way toward strengthening the security of our research networks, while preserving the shared culture of transparency and fairness.

Of course we want to continue to be the top place in the world for research, and that means that we have to be able to share and have transparency and openness, but it also means that we need to do a much better job of protecting this information from being misused.

We, of course, need to do better at getting the word out to universities, research institutions, and the general public about this threat being posed by the Thousand Talents Plan and other foreign talent recruitment plans. This means better coordination between law enforcement, the intelligence community, and grant-making agencies so that the government is on the same page on this threat.

We also need to change the research culture to preserve its openness and innovative spirit while making sure foreign researchers are properly vetted by the sponsoring organizations.

NIH, NSF, and other grant-making institutions need to standardize how they find conflicts of interest in grant applications. They don't do that now.

Members of the research community need to develop best practices for American researchers to follow so that they can determine whether receiving funds from a foreign country would compromise our principles of research integrity and threaten our national security.

Finally, we need to help the State Department do a better job in its visa

vetting process for foreign researchers. We need to do a better job of determining potential conflicts of interest before individuals who may not have the best interests of the United States at heart start working at our research institutions and using our taxpayer dollars.

In the coming months, I will introduce bipartisan legislation that will help address some of these challenges. I look forward to working with Senator CARPER, the ranking member on the subcommittee, and other colleagues to get those initiatives to the President's desk.

Let me conclude by saying that we don't want to exclude China from contributing to scientific innovation—not at all. Advancements in the fields of robotics, medicine, energy, weapons systems, and more are things that are very important, and many of these can benefit the entire globe. But we want to have fair and transparent processes in place as we conduct this research, and our taxpayers don't want to be the ones to pick up the tab as China misappropriates our research to build up its own economy and a military designed to rival ours.

My hope is that this report is the start of a productive dialogue with China and here in Congress on how we can better build a more secure research system that continues to reward those who come to our shores to discover new breakthroughs in science, while keeping China and other nation state competitors from taking that research for their own purposes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, before I start my remarks, I want to underscore how valuable the Department of Defense fellows program is to our individual offices. I can tell you firsthand that Captain Ng's presence in my office has given me capacity to deal with issues concerning appointments that I have or issues that are pending in Congress of a military nature.

For those of us who have never served in the military service, having someone like Captain Ng in our office is incredibly important. I really want to underscore that and thank all of our Defense fellows for the services they are performing for our country.

Mr. President, on May 22 of this year, I stood before this body and expressed my deep concerns about the media reports that President Trump was considering granting pardons to certain U.S. military personnel who had been convicted of committing war crimes in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now 6 months later, President Trump has followed through with setting a very dangerous precedent, pardoning three military personnel of war crimes, two who were found guilty under the U.S. military's Uniform Code of Military Justice and one whose trial never concluded.

President Trump's pardons significantly disrupt the foundations of our own institutions, particularly the U.S. military.

First, President Trump's pardons cause confusion for our military servicemembers on what actions are acceptable on the battlefield—an already difficult task given the complexity of war. Second, he undermines the military justice system. Finally, these pardons degrade America's global standing and influence.

Stephen Preston, a former General Counsel at the Department of Defense, wrote the following in the Department of Defense Law of War Manual in June of 2015:

The law of war is part of who we are. . . . [T]he laws of war have shaped the U.S. Armed Forces as much as they have shaped any other armed force in the world. The law of war is part of our military heritage, and obeying it is the right thing to do. . . . [T]he self-control needed to refrain from violations of the law of war under stresses of combat is the same good order and discipline necessary to operate cohesively and victoriously in battle.

The Law of War Manual goes on to outline the five interdependent principles that serve as the foundation of the law of war: One, military necessity; two, humanity; three, proportionality; four, distinction; and five, honor.

These principles are pillars of American values and the guideposts we expect America's sons and daughters to operate within so they remain trusted and respected by all citizens of the world. President Trump's ill-advised pardons have placed those pillars on shaky ground. He has blurred the lines of morality for our troops and has disregarded the constitutional values the Founding Fathers set forth.

By virtue of their oath and training, members of the U.S. military are accountable for their individual and collective actions through the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Department of Defense policy states:

Each member of the armed services has a duty to: (1) comply with the laws of war in good faith; and (2) refuse to comply with clearly illegal orders to commit violations of the law of war.

Two of these military personnel President Trump pardoned were found guilty of violating the law of war through the prescribed Department of Defense investigative and judicial processes. They violated international and domestic law, and they failed to uphold their constitutional oath. President Trump's pardons of war crimes erode the trust, confidence, and the legal and moral authority of the military justice system. He never gave the military justice system a chance to work and determine all the facts surrounding the third individual whom he pardoned.

Our own Commander in Chief has now compromised and degraded the integrity of the U.S. military judicial system—a system America relies on to maintain good order and discipline within the ranks of our millions of uniformed servicemembers.

Perhaps most important and most damaging, President Trump's actions have eroded America's moral standing and global influence.

That erosion emboldens our adversaries to cite our actions in committing and justifying their own war crimes. Have we become a country that now justifies and embraces the type of acts that occurred at My Lai during Vietnam or Abu Ghraib in Iraq? Will we continue to allow horrific acts committed by rogue actors who strategically diminish America's global standing?

Moving forward, how will other nations trust the United States to implement and enforce the law of war, as required by our own domestic laws, policy, regulations, and orders, and by the multiple treaty obligations with other countries?

Our Nation cannot tolerate crimes committed by rogue actors who violate their oaths and who turn their backs on American laws and values. If our government does not hold those individuals accountable for their actions, the United States will never recover from the strategic losses they incur. Under no circumstance is adopting the behavior of our worst adversaries ever justified, ever.

Just as we seek to hold foreign actors accountable for war crimes, we also have an obligation to hold ourselves accountable. We cannot willfully allow our institutions or the individuals who serve them to deviate from the laws and standards of conduct that underpin our great Nation, but that is precisely what President Trump has done. Our former colleague, Senator John McCain, suffered many years of torture at the hands of the North Vietnamese captors. Nonetheless, he stood in this Chamber to decry our use of the same tactics. He said: "This question isn't about our enemies. It is about us. It is about who we were, who we are, and who we aspire to be. It is about how we represent ourselves to the world. Our enemies act without conscience. We must not."

Senator McCain was correct. Great power competition with our adversaries is not just about who wins on a battlefield; ultimately, it is about preserving international recognized norms and values that uphold the rule of law, individual freedoms, and human dignity. If the U.S. fails to be the global champion of current international norms and democratic values, then our adversaries will replace those values with their own ideology predicated on intimidation, fear, and violent oppression.

The United States must not willfully commit or condone war crimes. We must bring those who commit them to justice, regardless of citizenship, affiliation, or background. Even in the fog of war—especially in the fog of war—we must so act. We must always endeavor to act with moral clarity and preserve the international norms and values that took so long and have cost so many American lives to establish.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Texas.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the last few months, our friend and colleague, the minority leader, has railed about the lack of legislative progress here in the Senate. He believes the Senate should spend time taking up ultrapartisan bills that have passed the House of Representatives, but the truth is, we respectfully decline to take up those bills, which, in some instances, would infringe Americans' Constitutional rights, send taxpayer dollars to political candidates, and move us closer and closer to socialized medicine.

Now, our colleague likes to call these dead-on-arrival partisan bills part of the legislative graveyard, but our colleague from New York has opened up a graveyard of his own, only his isn't full of partisan legislation that could never pass the Senate, let alone become the law. No. Our friend—the Democratic leader's legislative graveyard exclusively caters to bipartisan bills.

Now, it is full of commonsense and critically important legislation that would actually make the lives of the American people better if only our friend from New York would stand down. Today, we had a chance to kick the can down the road once more when it comes to Federal funding because our colleagues across the aisle have put government funding bills 6 feet under.

Over the summer, as you will recall, we came to a bipartisan agreement on spending caps, a bicameral agreement to guide the appropriations process. We had a deal. It provided a roadmap for negotiations this fall, and we all promised to work hard and in good faith and stay away from poison pill policy riders. But, unfortunately, that promise was not kept, and our colleagues can't seem to put politics aside long enough to even fund the government.

And why? Because of a disagreement over .3 percent of Federal spending—0.3 percent. They have twice blocked vital funding for our military. They have blocked funding for mental health programs, for border security, for grant programs for schools—all over these petty disputes. So here we are, almost 2 months into the fiscal year, and we haven't sent a single appropriations bill to the President's desk, not one.

Well, with the government set to shut down at midnight tonight, at least we passed a bill to keep the trains running for 1 more month. Maybe this was the least bad choice we had in light of these broken promises. The stopgap funding bill carries through December 20 and provides another opportunity for our colleagues across the aisle to make good on their August commitments to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year, using the normal appropriations process.

I hope that good faith negotiations can resume and we can fund the re-

mainder of the fiscal year by Christmas because the last stocking stuffer we want to give the American people is another government shutdown. And it is particularly important for us to fund our military in an increasingly dangerous world where weakness is indeed a provocation for the bullies and authoritarians who want to take advantage of the lack of American leadership, in this case because Congress simply refuses to do its job to fund the military.

Well, I would be wrong to say it is all bad news. I am an optimist by nature. It reminds me of the story of the little boy who comes down Christmas morning and finds a pile of manure under the Christmas tree. He asked, "Where is the pony?" I am an optimist by nature. Yesterday, we did manage to make some small progress when we unanimously passed a bipartisan bill that I introduced with Mr. MERKLEY, the Senator from Oregon, to ban the sale of riot control material to the Hong Kong police force.

As freedom-seeking protesters on the other side of the globe risked life and limb for the freedoms we too often take for granted, we cannot condone police brutality. Admittedly, this is a small but important step to show we stand with the people of Hong Kong, but I find this ironic. The minority leader is fine with passing incremental bills to support the people of Hong Kong, but when it comes to passing incremental bills to support the American people, he objects.

I think the best example is the legislation that I have introduced to bring down prescription drug prices. Last week, I came to the Senate floor with my friend, colleague, and cosponsor, Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, to ask that our bill to reduce drug prices be passed. No one else had an objection other than the Democratic leader.

The premise of the bill was pretty simple: prevent drugmakers from gaming the patent system to monopolize the market. Our bill strikes a delicate balance of protecting innovation while encouraging competition, and it would be a win for every American who has felt the pain or sticker shock at the pharmacy counter. This bill, amazingly, passed the Judiciary Committee unanimously. I served on the Judiciary Committee my entire time on the Senate, and it is famous for its contentiousness, and we passed it unanimously. Every Republican and every Democrat voted for it. So you can imagine my optimism, my hope, that the bill would sail through the Senate, meet up with welcoming arms in the House, and then get to the President for his signature, but I guess I should have known better.

Our Democratic colleagues have continued to throw up roadblocks for things as critical as funding the military, so why would they let this bill that would bring down prescription costs for consumers, why would they

let it pass? So right on cue, the Democratic leader came to the floor and he objected. He was the only person out of 100 Senators to object. He did not object because of the substance.

As a matter of fact, he called it a well-intentioned and good bill, but he objected. He certainly did not object because it was a partisan bill. The bill has six Democratic cosponsors, including the minority whip, the Senator from Illinois, and the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator MURRAY from Washington State.

So the only reason I can think of that he would object is because he doesn't want to see anyone whose name happened to be on the ballot in 2020 score a win. Well, how unworthy of the U.S. Senate is that sort of thinking? We should not be thinking in terms of who is going to win or lose politically if we pass good legislation. We ought to be doing the Nation's work and working together in a bipartisan basis, not trying to bring the 2020 election here to the Senate floor.

But this bill isn't the only one that is subject to these kinds of politics, unfortunately. Critical legislation to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault have also gotten caught up in this way of thinking. After months of bipartisan negotiations to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, our Democratic colleagues simply walked away from the negotiating table. Rather than reaching a compromise, building consensus on a bill that could pass both Chambers and become law, once again, our Democratic colleagues chose the partisan path and walked away from the table. They have introduced a near replica of the partisan House-passed bill for VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, which they know doesn't stand a chance of passing here in the Senate because it is not a consensus product.

That is not news to our friends on the other side of the aisle. They understand that this is more about the issue than it is solving the problem, the political issue. I think they turned their back on bipartisan talks, not because they had a better solution, which is what we ought to be about, but because our friend and Democratic leader doesn't want to give any Republican colleagues who are leading the negotiations, like the Senator from Iowa, Ms. ERNST, allow her to get a win.

This is really, again, unworthy of the Senate to think in those petty sorts of terms. I think we should concentrate on who would win if we passed the Violence Against Women Act, which would be the many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We ought to be thinking about them and whether they would win if we passed bipartisan legislation.

Now, I believe the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, wants to come back to the negotiating table. She told me that herself yesterday, but I also believe the Democratic leader probably

isn't going to let that happen. Like me, Senator ERNST is on the ballot next year.

Again, the minority leader has demonstrated his focus on politics rather than substance and doing what actually will help the American people: no bills to lower drug prices, no bills to support victims of domestic violence, nada. He can't afford to let any Republican bills pass because it might just hurt his chances of becoming the majority leader after the 2020 election.

I think it is a shame that the partisanship in the House has now infected the Senate and prevented us from passing bills that would make the American people's lives better. I hope our friends on the other side of the aisle have a great Thanksgiving break, and I hope that he will use that time to reconsider why it is they are here in the first place, why we are all here.

We are all here to make the Senate work for the benefit of the American people and not to engage in these unworthy petty political games leading up to the 2020 election.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE
AGREEMENT

Mr. President, on another matter, before election year politics completely halt the work of the Senate, here we are, 1 year before the election, one item I am really hoping we can deliver for the American people in addition to the ones I mentioned is the USMCA, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement.

This trade agreement, as we know, will replace NAFTA, or the North American Free Trade Agreement, and help drive our trade relationship with Mexico and Canada into the 21st century. When you consider the number of American jobs that depend on trade with Mexico and Canada, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce cites a figure of 13 million jobs—13 million jobs that depend on that trade with Mexico and Canada.

When you consider actions being taken by China to counter our interests all around the world, our reliance on North American partners is becoming increasingly important. The USMCA is not only an opportunity to strengthen North America's position on the global stage, but it is important, as I suggested, to our economy right here in the United States.

Earlier this year, the International Trade Commission provided some insight into what we can expect to see if this trade agreement is ratified, as it should be. The USMCA is expected to have a positive impact on every sector of the U.S. economy. Within 6 years, we are looking at 176,000 new American jobs and an increase in American gross domestic product of more than \$68 billion. That is bigger than the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

We can also look forward to more than a \$33 billion increase in exports and more than \$31 billion in imports. We know that many of those exports

and imports travel across the border in Texas because we share 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, and we have many ports of entry in our State.

In 2018 alone, Texas exported nearly \$110 billion in goods to Mexico and imported more than \$107 billion from Mexico. With the increased trade and travel we expect to see once the USMCA is ratified, we need to make sure that our ports of entry, through which these goods flow, are prepared. We have been working with the administration on this, and I have requested funding to prioritize Texas's ports and make sure they are safe and efficient.

I am also hoping the USMCA will include provisions from a bill I introduced earlier with another border State Senator, our friend Senator FEINSTEIN from California. This would improve the North American Development Bank, sometimes called the NAD Bank, which invests in our border communities and particularly in the infrastructure.

For every one NAD Bank dollar that has been invested in a project, that successfully leveraged \$20 in total infrastructure investment using public and private sector dollars.

Throughout NAD Bank's 25-year history, they have taken on projects that have improved air and water quality, updated infrastructure, and increased cross-border trade. NAD Bank brings Mexico and the United States together to finance these projects to improve trade and travel and quality of life on both sides of the border.

This legislation that Senator FEINSTEIN and I have introduced would authorize the Treasury Department to increase its capital and provide additional authority to fund critical projects. I have been working with my friend and Democratic colleague from Laredo, TX, Congressman CUELLAR, to make sure that these provisions are included in the final text of the USMCA. My hope is we will be able to take those provisions up as well as the entire agreement and ratify it soon, but it depends on Speaker PELOSI. Everybody is waiting for her to show the green light and for the House to act. I am concerned that as we get closer and closer into an election season, it is going to be harder and harder for the House to even pass this bipartisan trade deal.

I read today that she is not predicting they will even be able to get it done before the end of the year. I note that she made that comment roughly on the same day the House adjourned for 10 days. The House does not appear to be in any hurry, to be sure. In fact, they have dragged their feet for many months on something that is vitally important to our economy and job creation right here in the U.S.A.

Texans enjoy a strong trading relationship with our southern neighbor, and I am confident the USMCA will continue to propel that relationship forward as well as continue to grow our economy and create jobs and more opportunity for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, right now, as we are gathered here on the Senate floor, the Senate and House conferees are in the process of trying to negotiate a final agreement on the NDAA. That is the National Defense Authorization Act. One of the key issues in the final discussions over the NDAA involves a provision designed to protect the integrity of American elections against outside interference from Russia or any other adversary. It is a provision based on bipartisan legislation that Senator RUBIO and I introduced over a year ago to deter Russian interference in a future American election. The legislation is called the DETER Act, the idea being: Let's deter Russia from attacking our democracy.

I believe it would be grossly negligent for the conferees to the National Defense Authorization Act to bring back to the House and the Senate a measure that does not include a provision to defend our democracy from Russian interference. The entire Senate must share that sentiment because we unanimously voted on a resolution just a short time ago to include such a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act.

I have in my hand a copy of that resolution. It was S. Res. 330. It instructs the managers on the part of the Senate on bill S. 1790—that is the National Defense Authorization Bill—to require certain measures to address Federal election interference by foreign governments.

It goes on to instruct the Senate conferees to require the appropriate official of the executive branch, after each Federal election, to promptly submit to Congress a determination as to whether the Government of the Russian Federation, or any other foreign government, has interfered in such election and a detailed assessment of any such interference that identifies, to the maximum extent practicable, the individuals responsible for the interference and to promptly impose sanctions on any foreign government that has been determined to have interfered in a Federal election, including specified individuals and entities within the territory of the government.

That is what the U.S. Senate unanimously voted on to instruct our conferees to the National Defense Authorization Act negotiations. What I just read is the guts of the idea in the bipartisan DETER Act that Senator RUBIO and I have introduced.

Here is what we know. We know that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

How do we know that? It was the unanimous verdict of the entire U.S. intelligence community, including the leaders of intelligence agencies appointed by this President. It was also the bipartisan verdict of the Senate Intelligence Committee—a committee that painstakingly documented the fact that election systems in all 50 States were targeted by Russia in 2016—to different degrees but in all 50 States. In fact, that Senate Intelligence Committee report was the first public—the first public—acknowledgement of how extensive the Russian efforts were to interfere in the 2016 elections.

We know the Russians did this in 2016. We know that Vladimir Putin sees interfering in our elections as a way to divide us against one another. We know that Vladimir Putin fears democratic forms of government and wants to undermine public confidence in those democracies.

How do you undermine public confidence in those democracies? By attacking the election process so that people doubt the validity of the outcome of an election. When that happens, if the public loses faith in the outcome of our elections, then we have really undermined the legitimacy and confidence in our democratic system. That was 2016.

The measure I am talking about doesn't relate to 2016. It relates to the future. Here is what our intelligence community just informed the country about within the last few weeks. I am holding in my hand a statement that was released on November 5, just a few weeks ago. It is from Attorney General William Barr, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan, Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire, FBI Director Chris Wray, U.S. Cyber Command Commander and NSA Director GEN Paul Nakasone, CISA Director Christopher Krebs. Here is what they said 2 weeks ago.

Our adversaries want to undermine our democratic institutions, influence public sentiment and affect government policies. Russia, China, Iran, and other foreign malicious actors all will seek to interfere in the voting process or influence voter perceptions. This document is not about the past; this document is about the future, about our future elections, including the 2020 election, which is now less than a year away.

We know in 2016 the Russians attacked our electoral process. We now have all of the leaders of Federal Government intelligence agencies and law enforcement telling us they predict Russia will do it again in 2020.

We have a Russian missile headed for our democracy, and the question for all of us is, What are we going to do about it? What are we going to do to protect our democracy and the legitimacy of our electoral system?

First of all, we should harden our election system. We should make it more difficult for Russia to break into our voter registration files. Certainly, we should make it more difficult for

them to break into voting machines. We should also make sure we build more defenses to prevent the Government of Russia from using social media to mislead and confuse voters. We should do all those things to better defend our election system, but I am of the view—and a lot of folks who have followed Russia and Vladimir Putin for a long time—that the best defense is a good offense. We can harden our systems here, but that doesn't stop Russia and Vladimir Putin from trying to break into our election systems. It doesn't prevent Russia and Putin from trying to use our social media to influence our voters. The only way to prevent them from trying is to let them know in advance that there is a big price to pay if they get caught.

Right now it is cost-free for Russia to interfere in our elections. In fact, it is a net benefit because Putin divides us. Putin leads voters and citizens to question the legitimacy of our democracy. He is winning in this current calculus. We need to change his calculus. We need to make it clear that the cost of interfering in our elections far outweighs these benefits that he is gaining.

That is what the DETER Act is all about. What the DETER Act does is set up a process whereby, if we catch Russia interfering in our future elections, including the 2020 elections, there will be automatic, swift, and very stiff economic penalties—not penalties on a couple of oligarchs but penalties that will hurt his economy, penalties on his banking sector, and penalties on part of his energy sector. If we adopt this provision, then we are making it very clear in advance to Vladimir Putin that if he interferes, and we catch him, there is a very stiff price to pay.

The whole purpose of this act is not to impose sanctions; it is to avoid sanctions by making it clear upfront what the costs will be if Putin interferes in our elections. The whole point is to use the threat of automatic, swift, and tough sanctions to discourage and deter the Russians from interfering in the first place.

I haven't heard anybody provide one substantive argument for why we should not do this to protect our democracy. I can think of no more important place to include this provision than the national defense authorization bill because if the national defense authorization bill is not about defending our democracy, I am not sure what it is about.

So the question is, Why are we still debating this in the conference committee for the national defense authorization bill? I can't figure out who is opposing it other than the fact that somebody is. I was told it was the Republican Senate leader and the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee who are opposing this provision. If that is the case, they really need to come to the Senate floor and explain this because the Senate unanimously instructed Senate conferees to adopt just

such a provision—unanimously. That includes the Senate majority leader and the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. They didn't object. Yet somehow now we are in the middle of a conference committee on defending our country, which I thought meant also defending our democracy, and we have these folks who don't want their fingerprints on it who are somehow trying to defeat this measure.

Here is what I have to say. If this provision is not included in the NDAA, it would be grossly negligent because we know from our own intelligence community 2 weeks ago that the Russians are coming to attack our elections again, and we are going to pass a defense authorization bill where we sit on our hands and do nothing about it? That would be outrageous.

This measure needs to be in the NDAA bill. I will tell you, if it is not, I am going to be here on this floor regularly asking for unanimous consent to bring this bill up for a vote. I am going to have the majority leader have to come down here regularly, or whomever he wants to designate, to object to a unanimous consent agreement to a provision to defend our elections.

I hope it is included in the Defense authorization bill. That is the place it should be. If it is not, I will be down here every day, and the clock will be ticking down day by day for the 2020 election, our Intelligence Committee will continue to warn us about Russian interference, and I am going to want to hear in public—in public—why some of our colleagues don't want to take action to defend the integrity of our democracy; why they want to allow Putin to have his way cost-free. That is a question I will be asking every day. I hope I don't have to ask it every day. I hope we do what the Senate already instructed our conferees to do, which is to include it in the National Defense Authorization Act.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO ROSIE HABEICH

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday. I know the pages know this, and many people watching know this, but it is that time of the day in the Senate when I come down on the Senate floor and talk about somebody who makes my State a very unique and special place—and it is an opportunity for me to talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska right now, particularly before the holidays—somebody we refer to in Alaska and here in the Senate as the Alaskan of the Week.

Before I get into this very special Alaskan, I will give you a little weather update. A lot of people like to understand what is going on. Winter has come. It is coming to Alaska. Snow has arrived throughout much of the State. In Southcentral Alaska it has come. Anchorage is covered in snow. A lot of people are getting ready to undertake winter. Sports and activities on Monday in Utqiagvik, the northernmost

point in North America—it used to be called Point Barrow—the Sun rose and set for the last time until January 23. So it is going to be dark up there, but they are used to that. They are great people. The community has now officially settled in for a bit of a dark Arctic winter, but they have been doing that for a millennium.

It is a winter wonderland right now throughout Alaska. So I always encourage people watching, watching on TV, to come on up. Summer, winter, fall, spring, come on up and visit. You will love it. It will be the trip of a lifetime.

As I mentioned before, I think I come from the most beautiful State in the country, but it is also a place made up of the most important, caring, wonderful, generous, and supportive people anywhere. Some of these people have had ancestors living in Alaska for thousands and thousands of years. Others arrived more recently but immediately found a home in a community that they were supportive of and was supportive of them.

Let me introduce you to Rosemary Habeich. Her friends call her Rosie. She is an extraordinary Alaskan who has done extraordinary things for our people. She is our Alaskan of the Week.

What has she done? What is extraordinary about Rosie?

Let me just mention one off the top, which is pretty remarkable—fostering over 50 Alaskan children with her husband, Eben Hobson, Jr. I should add here that Eben is the son of the first mayor of Alaska's North Slope Borough and someone who has also fought for the rights of Alaska Natives throughout his life. He deserves mention, as well as his wife, as a legendary Alaskan.

Not only did Rosie and Eben foster all these children, they adopted three, and raised five of their own children. That is a crowded household but a kind, loving, supportive and warm household—a place of love.

I can say here that the recommendation for Rosie to be our Alaskan of the Week comes from our First Alaskans Institute fellow, Elizabeth Ahkivgak, who is right here with me and who has done a great job in my office.

Elizabeth is one of dozens and dozens of children Rosie and Eben took into their bright home and loved them so much so they could love themselves.

Let me tell you a little bit about Rosie, our Alaskan of the Week. She was born in Idaho. Like too many Americans, unfortunately, she actually came from a broken home. Her mother was battling an illness and sometimes was too sick to handle Rosie and her siblings.

It was during one of those bouts of illness that Rosie herself briefly became a foster child. That experience, the experience of visiting her mother in an institution, and the kindness of neighbors who stepped up and helped during those very difficult years would form the basis of Rosie's steadfast be-

lief that helping others in your community throughout your State is a higher calling.

Eventually, Rosie moved with her family to Fairbanks when she was just a young girl. Those were good years for her and her family. She thrived in Alaska, went to college, and became a social worker for the State. Eventually, her work took her to Utqiagvik—as I mentioned, formerly Barrow, AK—where she fell in love both with her husband, Eben, and with the community.

She found in Utqiagvik that if you had a good idea and were willing to do the work and see it through, you could succeed with the help of others, and she did succeed.

At various points during her time in the North Slope Borough of our great State, she worked as the director of the city's rec department, director of the health department, and executive director of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. She also sat on the board for the Rural Alaska Community Action Plan. She was a public health nurse and was appointed director of the North Slope Borough Health Department by two different mayors. That is an impressive resume, as you see.

She now spends much of her time in Anchorage, where she volunteers for a group called Friends in Serving Humanity, or F.I.S.H.—a church network that feeds the hungry. On many days, you can find her in different communities handing out meals and food boxes often paid for out of her own pocket.

Rosie gives her all to everything she does, but one of her truly lasting contributions to Alaska and to her community is how she has taken in so many children across the State who need a home, who need support, and who need love. She took in siblings. She took in infants. She took in teenagers. She took them from all backgrounds, from all across the State, and she loved them. She was patient with them. She intuitively understood what they needed and when they needed it. Some of the children she took in were horribly abused, most others were homesick, and some were confused.

In Alaska, getting running water to households across the State has long been a major challenge, one we are still working on today. If you can believe this—this is certainly one of my passions in the Senate—we have over 30 communities in Alaska with no flush toilets, no water and sewer—in America. Many of the children who came to Rosie were from these kinds of households and these kinds of communities. Many had never flushed a toilet in their lives.

She was sensitive to all this. One of the first things she did when a child came to her was to teach her how a faucet and a bathroom and a toilet worked. Then she fed them. Rosie's cooking is renowned. She listened to them and loved them.

This is how one of her former foster children described the experience of walking into Rosie's home:

Imagine coming from a place with nothing—absolutely nothing, [poverty]—and you walk into a normal house, filled with normal things that people and the rest of America take for granted—a warm house, a flush toilet, food on the stove, adults who speak to you [kindly]. It was like visiting a toy store for the first time. It was like visiting a different planet. It showed us what [a good] life could be like.

Not all of Rosie's kids made it out of a life of challenges and dysfunction and abuse, but many of them have. Many have broken the cycle of violence in their families for the first time. Some of them, along with their biological children and the ones she has adopted, are now doing great things for our State and our country. They are successfully running businesses. They have joined the military. They have worked at high levels of government. One of them, who is sitting right here next to me on the Senate floor, works in my office. We are lucky to have Elizabeth.

All of them, regardless of where they are now “have a place in my heart,” says Rosie. Why does she do it? Why has this woman given herself to so many others and changed so many lives?

She tells a story about a time when her mother was sick and had to go back into the institution, leaving her to take care of her four younger siblings. It was Christmastime, and Rosie literally had nothing. So the neighbors got together, left boxes of presents at the door of their house, and brought over Christmas dinner when she was young and needed help. “That’s the way life is supposed to be,” Rosie said. “You’re supposed to recognize when people have less than you, and you are supposed to help them out. It doesn’t matter if you’re looking at it through a biblical lens, or through karma, or through Buddha. Giving is fundamental.” That is her quote: “Giving is fundamental.”

All the Senators here today are heading home and heading back to the great States they represent for Thanksgiving, which we will be celebrating next week—a uniquely American holiday that all of us love and cherish so much. I know I certainly do. Rosie and Eben's story and commitment to others are exactly the kinds of things we as Americans should be thankful for as we are celebrating Thanksgiving next week. Giving is fundamental. I know I am thankful for what they have done.

Their household will be full this holiday season—friends, family, children. At some point this season, she will make her famous apple sausage stuffing, a recipe she learned from her own foster mother and one she has passed down to foster kids all across the great State of Alaska. It is made with love and with kindness and with thanksgiving.

Rosie, thank you for all you have done. From the bottom of my heart,

thanks for your spirit, your generosity, and your example as we head into Thanksgiving weekend, for touching so many lives across Alaska. Congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week and happy Thanksgiving.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

HEALTHCARE

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I have spent 3 years in the U.S. Senate. During this time, I can tell you the No. 1 issue when I am home—and I suspect it is in your State, as well, and across this country—is the cost of healthcare in this country and to be sure that everybody in this country, no matter your party, your religion, where you live, urban or rural area, has access to affordable healthcare not only when it is needed but also for preventative purposes to give you peace of mind.

Unfortunately, what we have seen is high cost; inability to get access to it, oftentimes when you are in a rural community; and a fight here in Congress. Instead of working together to solve this problem, we are too far apart in presenting a solution—in coming together for a solution.

It is open enrollment season for healthcare right now, which means Americans have an opportunity to get new healthcare coverage or change the coverage they have.

In Nevada, the State is running a new exchange website and working hard to make sure every Nevadan gets covered at NevadaHealthLink.com. I thank our fantastic exchange director, Heather Korbolic, and her team for all they are doing.

I want to encourage all Nevadans to get coverage. I don't think people realize how much help there is for individuals to get coverage at Nevada Health Link. If you want healthcare, please, please reach out by the December 15 deadline to learn more about the opportunities that are available to you to be able to afford it.

Open enrollment is a good time for us to reflect on how far we have come, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, and to take stock—to take stock—of the threats to that coverage. Unfortunately, I have watched in Congress as Members of the Republican Party, particularly this administration, try to sabotage the Affordable Care Act at every turn.

At the end of October, the Senate held a vote on Senator WARNER's resolution to overturn this administration's damaging and dangerous rule expanding so-called junk plans. My Democratic colleagues voted in favor of the resolution because they know how important healthcare is to our constituents. Yet, unfortunately, nearly all of the Senate Republicans voted against it. They voted to allow Americans to buy skimpy, low-benefit plans that send us back to the dark days of health coverage in America by allowing insurers to sidestep the patient protections in the Affordable Care Act.

These junk plans don't cover essential services like prescription drugs,

emergency room visits, mental healthcare, and maternity care. They don't prevent insurers from discriminating against people with preexisting conditions. There are about 1.2 billion of them in Nevada alone.

My colleagues on the other of the aisle argue that these junk plans are low cost. Well, they cost less than some plans, but that doesn't mean they are cheap. They may have high deductibles or exclude coverage of costly services, and, by law, more of the money they collect in premiums can go toward the insurers' profits. But when you realize that these plans provide barely any benefits, you can see, for most people, the plans are no savings at all.

What is more, because insurers often use deceptive marketing practices, people who purchase these plans don't always know just how skimpy their coverage is. Sometimes patients don't realize that their plans leave out much needed procedures until after they have racked up huge bills.

Paving the way for junk plans is just one way Republicans are undermining the Affordable Care Act. The Trump administration and 18 Republican State attorneys general are trying to get the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn the entire Affordable Care Act in a case called *Texas v. United States*. This is just the latest and one of the most dangerous of over 100 Republican attempts to get rid of the Affordable Care Act in Congress and the courts.

If the Fifth Circuit overturns the Affordable Care Act, Americans will lose the peace of mind and protections they have told us so many times that they want. The last thing Americans need is for us to turn back the clock to a time when they couldn't get healthcare for preexisting conditions or they couldn't get insurance to cover essential health needs.

This summer, I met with Ashby Bel lows and Charlie Bell, two Nevadans with juvenile diabetes. Both girls are doing well now, but their parents worry that when the girls are no longer on their parents' plan, they might opt to ration their insulin. Think about that—ration their insulin. Unfortunately, it is a common practice among people who cannot afford the often sky-high cost of insulin, and it can be deadly. In fact, one out of seven Americans knows someone who passed away in the last 5 years because they couldn't afford treatment for a medical condition.

Senate Republicans have told their constituents that they will protect Americans' healthcare, and President Trump has said he has a plan to provide Americans with healthcare. Well, where is it? I mean, the only plan we have seen is an attempt to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and rip away coverage from hundreds of thousands in Nevada and millions across America.

My Democratic colleagues and I are fighting to ensure that everyone in this country has access to affordable

healthcare. Unfortunately, what I have seen on the other side of the aisle and in this administration is that they are fighting to take it away. There is a clear distinction between the two, and I think the American public is tired of it.

We all should be working in a bipartisan way to make sure that everyone in this country has access to affordable healthcare. I will continue to vote for comprehensive and affordable healthcare in this country, and I will continue pushing to strengthen the Affordable Care Act and reduce prescription drug costs for Nevadans. I will keep fighting to ensure that Americans stay safe and healthy, and I will assure you that I will keep talking to my colleagues so that, hopefully, one day we will be fighting for the same thing, which is to ensure that everyone in this country, no matter your background or where you live, has access to affordable healthcare when you need it—when you need that coverage and you want to protect a loved one.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concerns about the President's recent interference in war crimes cases involving members of the U.S. military and the President's inappropriate public statements regarding these cases.

The President has the power to pardon, but he has a responsibility to use that power wisely, not recklessly. The way he has gone about it in this instance does a real disservice to our troops and the entire American military justice system.

Good order and discipline are critical and time-honored traits of the U.S. military, not only to enable military readiness and effectiveness but also to ensure that military men and women remain firmly tethered to our Nation's moral and ethical principles in the most demanding wartime environments.

A few have argued that the President has the authority to pardon, but that is a false defense. The issue is that the President's intervention in these cases sends a damaging message to the world, our adversaries, and, most importantly, our men and women in uniform. The Commander in Chief's actions should make us safer and stronger in the world, but President Trump's actions do not.

The cases in which the President intervened fall far outside of the norm. The President's pardon authority has traditionally been reserved for non-violent infractions, including draft evasion and desertion. I am aware of no other instance in which a President has intervened to grant clemency for violent crimes committed while in uniform, especially for war crimes including murder.

Especially concerning is the President's decision to intervene in a case

prior to its even going to trial—an action that I believe is an insult to our entire system of military justice.

Just this morning, the President again intervened—via tweet—to stop a Navy administrative review process that could have resulted in the removal of a servicemember from the Navy SEALs, despite the fact that the servicemember was previously found guilty of posing for photos with a dead ISIS fighter. We must expect more from our military men and women, especially those in our Special Operations forces.

Regrettably, President Trump has repeatedly advocated for a return to torture, stating that we should “take out the families” of terrorists and expressing his view on standards of military conduct by saying: “You have to play the game the way they are playing the game.” The President's statements are reminiscent of former Vice President Cheney's embrace of the “dark side” of counterterrorism—the very kind of thinking that underpinned later abuses at Abu Ghraib and the CIA's use of torture as part of its so-called Detention and Interrogation Program.

President Trump tweeted in October that “we train our boys to be killing machines, then prosecute them when they kill!”

No, Mr. President, the U.S. military does not prosecute its own for carrying out lawful missions in service to our Nation. We do not train our troops to kill indiscriminately. We do not train them to attack noncombatants. We do not train them to violate the Geneva Convention and the rule of law because we want our troops to be protected by those same standards. To think or say otherwise is to go against discipline, the selfless service of so many, and the history of our military.

As former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff GEN Dempsey wrote in May:

Absent evidence of innocence or injustice the wholesale pardon of US servicemembers accused of war crimes signals our troops and allies that we don't take the Law of Armed Conflict seriously. Bad message. Bad precedent. Abdication of moral responsibility. Risk to us.

I couldn't agree more.

Some have claimed that the President's intervention in this case has somehow improved the morale of our military and given them more confidence on the battlefield. On the contrary, President Trump's disregard for our military justice system risks undermining the confidence of our servicemembers in the rule of law—especially those who are courageous enough to bring allegations of war crimes to light and testify against their teammates.

By substituting his judgment for that of commanders and military juries, the President may also inadvertently increase the risk to our U.S. personnel overseas. When we do not hold our military personnel to appropriate standards of conduct, it makes it more likely that they will face similar

abuses on the battlefield and less likely that we will be able to hold our enemies accountable.

There is no one with more credibility and no one with the service and sacrifice who can say it any better or more authentically than former Senator John McCain, who stated:

This is a moral debate. It is about who we are. I don't mourn the loss of any terrorist's life. What I do mourn is what we lose when by official policy or official neglect we confuse or encourage those who fight this war for us to forget that best sense of ourselves. Through the violence, chaos, and heartache of war, through deprivation and cruelty and loss, we are always Americans, and different, stronger, and better than those who would destroy us.

Those are the words of John McCain.

I believe the President's actions minimize the honorable service of all U.S. servicemembers who have served with discipline and distinction since 9/11 and have answered our Nation's call throughout the history of this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spoken previously about the alarming rates of corruption, violent crime, and impunity in Honduras. While Honduras is by no means unique in this regard, it is a serious concern given the challenges it poses not only for the people of Honduras but also for the United States.

Every week, my office receives word of another assassination in Honduras of a social leader, environmental activist, indigenous rights activist, journalist, or trade unionist. Rarely does a week go by that we do not hear about threats against these individuals. Rarely does a week go by that we do not receive reports of arbitrary and prolonged imprisonment of critics of government policies or practices. While the murder of Berta Caceres on March 3, 2016, captured the world's attention, that outrageous crime was but one of many targeted killings of Hondurans

who have dared to protest against corruption, infrastructure development that threatens their land, water, farms and communities, excessive force by the military and police, and the lack of access to justice.

These types of crimes are nothing new in Honduras; in fact, they are shockingly common. But they have noticeably increased in frequency since the conviction in a New York Federal court on October 18 of Tony Hernandez, a notorious drug kingpin and the brother of President Juan Orlando Hernandez who was named as an unindicted coconspirator. It begs credulity that President Hernandez was completely unaware of the actions of his brother or of the reported use of profits from drug trafficking to finance his political campaign. Honduras, which was already among the most corrupt and dangerous countries in the world for those who have dared to challenge the dominance of a tiny elite who continue to wield unbridled control over the political and economic levers of the country, has become even more corrupt and dangerous.

Ever since President Hernandez successfully orchestrated his reelection to an unprecedented second term, the country has become increasingly polarized. Social and political dissent, when the government's consistent response is to use force—including lethal force—and to misuse the judicial process to silence its critics, fuels instability and violence which are among the key drivers of migration. This is what we are seeing in Honduras, and the United States shares some of the blame as our Embassy and the Department of Defense continue to publicly portray their engagement with the Hernandez Government as business as usual.

There is only one person who has the authority and responsibility to lead Honduras down a better path, a path toward real stability and a culture of lawfulness, and that is President Hernandez. The election of his successor is only 2 years away. In the time remaining, President Hernandez could use what credibility he has left and take decisive action to begin a process of reconciliation aimed at uniting the Honduran people in pursuit of the common goals of economic opportunity, personal security, and justice. Doing so would require a fundamental change of attitude and approach, including installing people in key positions of government who have unimpeachable integrity and who represent a wide spectrum of Honduran society.

Absent such enlightened leadership, Honduras will likely remain a fractured society, plagued by instability, rampant poverty, violence, and impunity. Honduras's democratic institutions will continue to be corrupted and eroded, and Hondurans will continue to seek a better, safer life outside their country.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I vividly recall the feeling of optimism that people in this country and around the world felt on that day in Washington in 1993 when Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat signed the Oslo Accords. For those too young to remember, the Oslo process began as secret negotiations in Oslo, resulting in the recognition by the PLO of the State of Israel and the recognition by Israel of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people for the purpose of direct negotiations between the two parties. The Oslo Accords marked the formal start of that process, which aimed at achieving a peace treaty based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and at fulfilling the "right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

The negotiations were to focus on resolving the key issues in dispute: Israeli settlements, the status of Jerusalem, Israel's military presence in and control over remaining territories after Israel's recognition of Palestinian autonomy, and the return of Palestinian refugees. It was hoped and believed that the signing of the Oslo Accords was the beginning of the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and of a process that would culminate in a two-state solution with secure borders for both Israel and a new Palestinian state.

Since then, virtually nothing has occurred as envisioned. Prime Minister Rabin, a visionary leader whom I knew and greatly respected, was assassinated by a Jewish extremist. Over the years, time after time, the hopes and aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians have been dashed. Israelis have suffered countless deadly attacks by Hamas and by other Palestinian extremists. The Palestinians have suffered countless humiliations and assassinations. But despite the many setbacks, missed opportunities, and failures of leadership on both sides, I have never felt that the Oslo process was a lost cause—until today. Today, I feel a greater sense of sorrow and discouragement about that once hopeful vision than I ever have before.

On Monday, Secretary of State Pompeo announced that the administration no longer considers Israeli settlements to be contrary to international law, thereby reversing a longstanding U.S. position that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal. That position was based on adherence to international law and UN Security Council resolutions and was embraced by both Democratic and Republican administrations. Upon learning of this change of position, I could not help but feel that it signified the demise of the Oslo Accords. After so many similar reversals of U.S. positions by this White House on key issues that both sides had pledged would be resolved only through negotiations, it seems beyond dispute that President Trump never believed in a two-state solution.

In fact, this White House has been consistently disingenuous about its intentions in the Middle East, all the time talking about wanting a political settlement but acting in ways that put it increasingly out of reach. It was just a matter of time before they abandoned any pretext of supporting the principle that territorial disputes should be resolved through dialogue. Every step of the way, administration officials have insisted on the myth that they are improving the prospects for peace, but 3 years later, Israelis and Palestinians are farther from that goal than at any time since 1993. The White House, with the support and encouragement of the U.S. Ambassador and the Secretary of State, has done whatever it could to ensure that the West Bank, home to nearly 3 million Palestinians, is occupied permanently or annexed by Israel.

Without a change of leadership with the necessary vision and political courage in the United States and in Israel, the Palestinians will remain as second-class citizens, subjected to a lifetime of indignities and entitled to only limited rights. I cannot help but wonder what my friend Prime Minister Rabin would be thinking today and how he would react to this announcement. I suspect he would be as disappointed as I am that his courageous act more than a quarter century ago, and the opportunity that act offered for lasting peace for both Israelis and Palestinians, has been so selfishly and recklessly squandered.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 360, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 488, Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.●

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-67 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$245 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
(for Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-67

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Australia.
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$ 0 million.
Other \$245 million.
Total \$245 million.
- (iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
None.
Non-MDE: Up to eight hundred fifty (850) Joint Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare Increment 1 Block 1 (JCREW 11B1) Systems (533 vehicle mounted and 317 dismounted); spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; technical exchanges, publications and technical documentation; support equipment; engineering change proposals; classified software/loadsets; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support.
- (iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-LGA).
- (v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-LFX.
- (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.
- (viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 20, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—JCREW Systems and Support

The Government of Australia has requested to buy up to eight hundred fifty (850) Joint Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare Increment 1 Block 1 (JCREW 11B1) Systems (533 vehicle mounted and 317 dismounted); spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; technical exchanges, publications and technical documentation; support equipment; engineering change proposals; classified software/loadsets; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support. The total estimated cost is \$245 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political

and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

The proposed sale will provide Australia increased force protection from Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device threats for its defense forces and vehicles. Australia is interested in procuring the dismounted and mounted variants that have a modular, open architecture and are upgradeable in order to maintain capability against evolving global threats. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Northrop Grumman Corporation, San Diego, California. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-67

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. Australia's requirement for 850 JCREW I1B1 systems could potentially include:
(1) Expeditionary Warfare, Force Protection, (2) Techniques for the Defeat of Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices, (3) Force Protection, Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems, (4) Capabilities and Limitations of Electronic Warfare Systems, and, (5) Threat Assessment from Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices.
- 2. The Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare technical insertion development may contain sensitive technology; however, defined requirements are not known at this time and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 3. A determination has been made that Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.
- 4. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter

references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-69 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of New Zealand for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.4 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER
(For Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-69

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of New Zealand.
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment \$.6 billion.
Other \$.8 billion.
Total \$ 1.4 billion.
- (iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Five (5) C-130J Aircraft.
Twenty-four (24) Rolls Royce AE-2100D3 Turbo Prop Engines (20 installed, 4 spares).
Fifteen (15) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGIs) with GPS Security Devices, Airborne (10 installed, 5 spares).
Eight (8) Multi-Information Distribution System (MIDS)/Link-16 Low Video Terminal (LVT)-BU2 (5 installed, 3 spares).
Thirteen (13) AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM (Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures) System Processor Replacement (LSPR) (10 installed, 3 spares).
Nineteen (19) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly for LAIRCM (15 installed, 4 spares).

Non-MDE: Also includes eight (8) AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning System (MWS); eight (8) AN/APN-241 Low Power Color Radar; eight (8) AN/ALR-56M Missile Warning System Receiver; fifteen (15) AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System; six (6) MX-20HD Electro-Optical/Infrared Imaging System; forty-four (44) Missile Warning Sensor, LAIRCM; Control Interface Unit Replacement, LAIRCM; classified memory cards, LAIRCM; Low Volume Terminal Cryptographic Modules KIV-55; AN/ARC-210 RT-1990A(C) Radio; AN/ARC-164(V) RT-1518 Radio; AN/ARC-153 Tactical Air Navigation; AN/ARN-147 VHF Receiver; AN/ARC-190 HF Radio; AN/ARC-222 VHF Radio w/SINGARS; Classified Tactical Manuals; Cartridge Activated Devices/Propellant Activated Devices; M206 Flares; MJU-64/B Decoy; BBU-35A/B Impulse Carts; Joint Mission Planning System; Classified Computer Identification Numbers; Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) support, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S.

Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NZ-D-SAB and NZ-D-QAF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.: Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 20, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

New Zealand—C-130J Aircraft

The Government of New Zealand has requested to buy five (5) C-130J aircraft; twenty-four (24) Rolls Royce AE-2100D3 turboprop engines (20 installed, 4 spares); fifteen (15) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGIs) with GPS security devices, airborne (10 installed, 5 spares); eight (8) Multi-Information Distribution System (MIDS)/Link-16 Low Video Terminal (LVT)-BU2 (5 installed, 3 spares); thirteen (13) AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM (Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures) System Processor Replacement (LSPR) (10 installed, 3 spares); and nineteen (19) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly for LAIRCM (15 installed, 4 spares). Also included are eight (8) AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning System (MWS); eight (8) AN/APN-241 Low Power Color Radar; eight (8) AN/ALR-56M Missile Warning System Receiver; fifteen (15) AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System; six (6) MX-20HD Electro-Optical/Infrared Imaging System; forty-four (44) Missile Warning Sensor, LAIRCM; Control Interface Unit Replacement, LAIRCM; classified memory cards, LAIRCM; Low Volume Terminal Cryptographic Modules KIV-55; AN/ARC-210 RT-1990A(C) Radio; AN/ARC-164(V) RT-1518 Radio; AN/ARC-153 Tactical Air Navigation; AN/ARN-147 VHF Receiver; AN/ARC-190 HF Radio; AN/ARC-222 VHF Radio w/SINCGARS; Classified Tactical Manuals; Cartridge Activated Devices/Propellant Activated Devices; M206 Flares; MJU-64/B Decoy; BBU-35A/B Impulse Carts; Joint Mission Planning System; Classified Computer Identification Numbers; Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) support, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated value is \$1.40 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability, and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. The proposed sale will improve New Zealand's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing its current airlift capability.

This proposed sale will provide the capability to support national, United Nations, and other coalition operations. This purchase also includes sensors and performance improvements that will assist New Zealand during extensive maritime surveillance and reconnaissance as well as improve its search and rescue capability. Additionally, the extra cargo capacity and aircraft performance will greatly increase New Zealand's Antarctic mission capabilities while simultaneously increasing safety margins. New Zealand currently operates the C-130H aircraft and will have no difficulty absorbing

this equipment and support into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Ft Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will require the assignment of up to three U.S. contractor representatives to New Zealand.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-69

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The C-130J Hercules with Rolls Royce AE 2100D Turboprop Engines is a military airlift aircraft that performs primarily the tactical portion of the airlift mission. The aircraft is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips and is the prime transport for air dropping troops and equipment into hostile areas. The C-130J improvements over the C-130E include improved maximum speed, climb time, cruising altitude and range. The C-130J has 55 feet of cargo compartment length, an additional 15 feet over the original "short" aircraft. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

2. Embedded GPS-INS (EGI) LN-260 is a sensor that combines GPS and inertial sensor inputs to provide accurate location information for navigation and targeting.

3. Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) is an advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. The MIDS terminal hardware, publications, performance specifications, operational capability, parameters, vulnerabilities to countermeasures, and software documentation are classified CONFIDENTIAL. The classified information to be provided consists of that which is necessary for the operation, maintenance, and repair (through intermediate level) of the data link terminal, installed systems, and related software.

4. The AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM is a self-contained, directed energy countermeasures system designed to protect aircraft from infrared-guided surface-to-air missiles. The system features digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The system operates in all conditions, detecting incoming missiles and jamming infrared-seeker equipped missiles with aimed bursts of laser energy. The LAIRCM system consists of multiple Missile Warning Sensors, Guardian Laser Turret Assemblies (GLTA), LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR), Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), and a classified User Data Memory (UDM) card containing the laser jam codes. The UDM card is loaded into LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR) prior to flight; when not in use, the UDM card is removed from the LSPR and put in secure storage. The Missile Warning Sensors (MWS) for AN/AAQ-24 (V)N are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The MWS detects the rocket plume of missiles and sends appropriate data signals to the LSPR for processing. The LSPR analyzes the data from each sensor and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasure via the GLTA. The CIUR

displays the incoming threat. The LSPR also contains Built-In-Test (BIT) circuitry.

5. The AN/ALE-47 Counter-Measures Dispensing System (CMDS) is an integrated, threat adaptive, software-programmable dispensing system capable of dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The threats countered by the CMDS include radar directed anti-aircraft artillery, radar command-guided missiles, radar homing guided missiles, and infrared guided missiles. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a stand-alone system or may be integrated with other on-board EW and avionics systems. The AN/ALE-47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and to determine a response. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed using one of four operational modes. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

6. The AN/AAR-47A(V)2 Missile Warning System is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provide countermeasures, as well as audio and visual-sector warning messages to the aircrew. The basic system consists of multiple Optical Sensor Converter (OSC) units, a Computer Processor (CP) and a Control Indicator (CL). The set of OSC units, which normally consist of four, is mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The OSC detects the rocket plume of missiles and sends appropriate signals to the CP for processing. The CP analyses the data from each OSC and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasures. The CP also contains comprehensive BIT circuitry. The CI displays the incoming direction of the threat, so that the pilot can take appropriate action. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

7. The AN/ALR-56M Advanced Radar Warning Receiver continuously detects and intercepts RF signals in certain frequency ranges and analyzes and separates threat signals from nonthreat signals. It contributes to full-dimensional protection by providing individual aircraft probability of survival through improved aircrew situational awareness of the radar guided threat environment. The ALR-56M is designed to provide improved performance in a dense signal environment and improved detection of modern threats signals. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided is UNCLASSIFIED.

8. Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is a multi-platform PC based mission planning system. JMPS hardware is UNCLASSIFIED but the software is classified up to SECRET.

9. The MX-20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi field of view Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) system. The system provides surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis.

10. This sale will involve the release of sensitive and/or classified cryptographic equipment for secure communications radios, precision navigation, and cryptographic appliances and keying equipment. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, except where systems are loaded with cryptographic software, which may be classified up to SECRET.

11. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific

hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

12. A determination has been made that New Zealand can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

13. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of New Zealand.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to a critical and often hidden issue facing our Nation. Each year, nearly 18,000 foster children across our country age out of the system with no permanent place to call home. Right now, over 125,000 foster children are eligible for adoption and waiting for their forever family. Over 1,600 of those children live in Nevada. Every single child deserves a safe, loving, and permanent family.

November is National Adoption Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the many ways that families are created, including through adoption. There are children in our communities, waiting to belong, to be loved, and to be a part of what so many of us take for granted. Sitting down to a meal with a parent, knowing you have a family member in the audience at a school event or knowing that someone is, indeed, waiting up to make sure you get home safe and by curfew. The very idea that someone cares enough to make sure homework is done, and to listen when your day doesn't go so well does immeasurable good for children.

Our Nation's foster children are in a situation that is no fault of their own. Most are there due to severe neglect or abuse. They have experienced trauma. They have been suddenly taken away from all they know, bringing few possessions, stored in a garbage bag, with them as they move from home to home. The goal is always to reunite foster children with their biological families if it can be done safely, but unfortunately, that isn't always an option. For the children who remain in our foster system, we can and must do better.

Absolutely no child is unadoptable. By working together, we can achieve a future where every child in our Nation knows without a doubt they belong and they have a family. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about adoption to visit www.adoptuskids.org or reach out to local community organizations to find out more about how to get involved with mentoring or supporting foster children in other ways.

As I hear from constituents about the work they do to help raise awareness and improve outcomes for foster youth, I am so encouraged. I remain

committed to working with my colleagues in the Senate to create a brighter future for our most vulnerable children.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIS MCKENNIE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an inspiring young man, Ellis McKennie. I had the good fortune of getting to know Ellis when he was an intern in my office, first in the summer of 2018 in my State office and then again this past summer in Washington. He was a diligent worker, always searching for ways to help. He was keen to take advantage of every opportunity to learn. One thing that became obvious right away is that Ellis is an empathetic young man; in one instance, as a youngster, he asked his mother to make lunches for less fortunate fellow students. I am very grateful to Ellis for his service to the people of Maryland during his internships and for his service to the University of Maryland as the epitome of a student athlete. Ellis has been an offensive lineman on the Terrapins' football team for the last 4 years. Perhaps more important than his leadership on the field, though, has been his leadership off the field, where he has advocated fiercely for meaningful athletic reform in the wake of his boyhood friend and teammate Jordan McNair's tragic death from heatstroke last year. Ellis has worked hard to mobilize his teammates and the entire campus to become more engaged politically. In recognition of his ability to bring people together for positive change, the student body elected Ellis to the university senate this year.

Somehow, among Ellis's football career, activism, and student governance, he has also found time to set an exemplary academic record, twice earning All-Big Ten academic honors and completing his undergraduate degree in just 3 years. Now, while he plays his final season for the Terrapins, he is busy earning a graduate degree in public policy. Next, Ellis plans to attend law school and hopes to serve as an elected official 1 day, perhaps here in the Senate.

I have been so impressed by everything that Ellis has been able to accomplish at such a young age and by everything that he aspires to achieve in the future. Most of all, I am proud of his enduring commitment to building community, helping those in need, and fighting for what's right. Young people like Ellis should reassure all of us that the future of our country is in capable hands.

On November 20, the Baltimore Sun ran an article by Don Markus entitled "Maryland's Ellis McKennie found his voice when Jordan McNair died. Now he looks to finish his career strong." The article captures the qualities that make Ellis such a special young man. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

MARYLAND'S ELLIS MCKENNIE FOUND HIS VOICE WHEN JORDAN MCNAIR DIED. NOW HE LOOKS TO FINISH HIS CAREER STRONG.

(By Don Markus)

Ellis McKennie spent his first three years at Maryland as a nondescript reserve offensive lineman, redshirting his first season after graduating from McDonogh and serving as a little-used backup the next two.

It took the death of Jordan McNair—a fellow offensive lineman who had been more like a little brother since they grew up on the same street in Randallstown—for McKennie to find his voice.

It then took McKennie getting a role this season, briefly as a versatile reserve and then as a starter in seven games at four positions, to have the platform to use it.

"As someone who's a leader on this team. I feel confident to express the feelings and attitude of the team," McKennie said last week, sitting in the auditorium of the Gossett Team House. "I'm that way to Coach [Mike Locksley], too.

"I'm on the leadership council and I'm one of the guys coach is asking, 'Where do you think the team's at?' I'm that voice for him and when the media comes asking the same questions. I'm confident that I can represent the team in a good way in the public light."

Going into Saturday's senior day matchup with Nebraska (4-6, 2-5 Big Ten), McKennie is hoping that he can help Maryland (3-7, 1-5) end a five-game losing streak.

"I can't stress how important it is for us to beat Nebraska," McKennie said. "I can still remember singing the alma mater after the Syracuse game [a 63-20 win on Sept 7] thinking, 'I can't wait to do this some more this season.' If that's the last time I get to sing the alma mater at Maryland Stadium, that'll be tough for me to handle. I'm going to do whatever I can to get this win."

McKennie's role as a leader for the Terps began to evolve in the weeks and months after the 19-year-old McNair's death from heatstroke in June 2018.

It was McKennie and then-sophomore center Johnny Jordan who were designated to speak when the still-grieving team met with the media for the first time in late August.

It was McKennie who carried the flag with McNair's jersey number—79—out for the 2018 season opener at FedEx Field and waved it after the Terps upset than-No. 23 Texas, 34-29.

It was also McKennie who walked out with a couple of his teammates from a team meeting after former coach DJ Durkin, who had been put on administrative leave in the aftermath of McNair's death, had briefly been reinstated in late October. Durkin was fired by university President Wallace D. Loh the following day.

"They say in the face of tragedy that people get closer together, and that's what happened on this team," McKennie said. "We lost a brother, but at the same time, when you go through something like that with a group of people and you come out the other side, you have a different kind of relationship with them. That role during that whole time period just kind of fluidly turned into a leadership role on the field this season."

Jodi McKennie wasn't surprised that her middle child became the de facto team spokesman among the Maryland players.

"From the time he was a little boy, he was the most empathetic child you could meet," she said last week. "He could not stand to see anyone he thought was suffering in any way."

It meant asking his mother to make extra lunches for other kids who didn't have food

at home to bring to school or to have her put money on the accounts of less fortunate students. At Maryland, it took shape McNair's death.

The leadership piece took over because he is definitely led by his moral compass, and that comes from understanding right from wrong and what happened to Jordan was so hard on him that he could no longer be quiet," Jodi McKennie said.

His father's five-year stint as the boys basketball coach at Archbishop Curley also had an impact on the younger McKennie.

"I had a couple of kids who had problems with their family and he would see Dad get up and go and do things [for the players]," the elder McKennie said Monday. "It was the same for me. When I got to college, I didn't realize my Dad, who was a Marine Corps dude, was in my brain. You don't realize until it has to be shown."

Recalling when his son walked out on Durkin, the elder McKennie said his son called him beforehand to tell him of his intentions.

"I said, 'Ellis, before you do anything, do you want to talk about it?' and he said, 'Dad, I got this,'" the elder McKennie said.

McKennie doesn't think he would have been any less a leader this season had he not worked his way up the depth chart and into a starting role.

"I have a type of rapport with teammates, they know what I'm about, and that I actually care about this team and this university," McKennie said. "Whether I'm playing, whether I'm having a good game or a bad game, whether I'm on scout team, it wouldn't make a difference, just the type of guy that I am."

Said senior defensive tackle Brett Kulka: "Ellis is great. He's definitely a leader. You can see that in the locker room as a whole. He's an encouraging player. He likes to help younger guys. He understands what it takes to win in terms of you need everyone on the team. He really embraces that role."

It has been more than 17 months since McNair died and McKennie said it is unlikely that he will ever get over it completely. He had known McNair since they were kids and McNair played Little League baseball on a team coached by McKennie's father.

"You're never going to feel normal. It almost turns into a new type of normal, it's a new reality you've got to live it," McKennie said. "I can't lie and say I don't think about it every day. I get texts from his parents before every game. . . . You're never going to move on from it."

"I think it was important that when Coach Locks got here, he had a meeting with a bunch of us and he said, 'We can move on without forgetting Jordan. We can take steps forward, but we'll not forget where we came from and not forget Jordan in any sort of way.'"

Even though the patch of grass at Maryland Stadium with McNair's number has grown over, McKennie said, "Internally we honor him every day. His locker is still in our locker room. We pray in front of it before every game."

Four years later, McKennie is only one of three players remaining from the 19 members of the 2015 recruiting class, along with linebacker Isaiah Davis and defensive end Keiron Howard.

"There are less than 10 guys from my class that made it through their eligibility," McKennie said. "Our class is extremely interesting because it's been filled with so much turmoil. A lot of guys didn't finish, but we also had two first-round draft picks, DJ Moore and Darnell Savage. So it's like a pretty big spectrum. I've been the only offensive lineman left for two years."

Locksley said Tuesday that the person and player he helped recruit to Maryland while

serving as the team's offensive coordinator has grown tremendously in the past five years.

"He's a guy that's been directly affected with the three full-time coaches, two interims, the loss of a former high school teammate [and] dear friend, and this kid continues to stand strong." Locksley said at his Tuesday news conference, where he announced that McKennie and three other seniors would serve as captains for Saturday's game.

"He's one of the guys you can sell the University of Maryland with. He's the epitome of a student-athlete. He's a guy that has the right kind of habits and behaviors, where he's going to be really successful on the field and off the field. Really I can't say enough great things about the leadership that he's provided, not just for the players, but even to me as the head coach. He's the epitome of what a Maryland player should look like."

For much of his career, McKennie focused "pretty heavily" on the front half of his hyphenated position as a student-athlete, graduating in three years with a degree in government and politics and then working on his master's degree in public policy, which he will finish in the coming weeks as he gets ready to start studying for his LSATs and a career as a lawyer or politician.

"We used to joke that he would be the first black president and then we had [Barack] Obama so now we're banking on him being the second black president," his mother said.

Even with what he has accomplished off the field—twice earning All-Big Ten academic honors, being elected to the university senate during the 2019–20 academic year, interning for U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) last summer—McKennie thinks of himself mostly as a Maryland football player.

"That's what I do every day," he said. "There hasn't been a day in the past five years when I haven't come to this building aside from a few holidays. It's going to be a weird change. I'm looking forward to what's next for me, but I'm definitely going to miss everything that has come about. I'm starting to appreciate things differently now. I'm going to practice not dreading practice anymore. I'm happy to be there with my teammates."

Unlike many of his former teammates who left long before their eligibility expired or moved on the moment they played their final game, McKennie said there will always be an attachment.

"I love this university and I love what it means to be a Terrapin," McKennie said. "It means so much more to me than just playing on Saturday. If it was about playing time, I still wouldn't be here. I should have gone somewhere else and played a little bit sooner. It means so much to me to represent this university and represent this state that I've called home for most of my life, that's the most important part to me."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARY AND HANNA CANADA

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Gary and Hanna Canada for receiving the American Bankers Association's Bruning Award. This award is dedicated to bankers who demonstrate a strong sense of leadership and dedication to providing financial guidance and credit to ranchers, farmers, and businesses in rural America.

The Canadas are well known throughout southern Arkansas for their partnership running their business hand-in-hand, which helps explain why, for first time in the 22-year history, the award has been presented to a team of ag bankers.

Gary Canada began his professional career as a teacher and coach, eventually working his way up to principal. In 1975, Gary joined the Bank of England and climbed the ranks to become the chairman and president of the bank. Over the years, Gary has served on numerous committees and boards, including the ABA's Agricultural and Rural Bankers Committee, Arkansas Rice Council, and Bayou Metro Irrigation District. In addition to his work with the bank, Gary has farmed cotton, rice, and wheat and run a cow and calf operation.

Similarly, Hanna Canada began her career as a teacher before working at the Bank of England. Her early years at the bank consisted of working as a teller before transitioning to board secretary assisting with policies. Hanna currently serves as the executive vice president of the Bank of England and member of the board of directors. Along with her hard work and dedication to the bank, she also serves as an emergency medical technician.

Gary and Hanna Canada demonstrate what it means to give back to your community. Every opportunity they have had to help those in need, they have not hesitated to step in and lend a hand. In addition, Hanna hopes to inspire other women to step into leadership roles in the agriculture banking community. The couple's desire to grow the farming community in the State is remarkable and reveals why they are so well-deserving of this recognition.

I would like to congratulate and thank the Canadas for their hard work, dedication, and leadership to the city of England, the ag community in their area, and the State of Arkansas. I am grateful for their work and for the ABA recognizing their careers and contributions with the Bruning Award.●

TRIBUTE TO PARKER WALTER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Parker Walter of Madison County for his extraordinary bravery in the face of danger.

In late September, the American Red Cross awarded 6-year-old Parker Walter with a Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action from their National Lifesaving Award Program. This was the first time in 20 years that a Montanan has received the distinguished Lifesaving Award from the American Red Cross. Parker heroically saved his 4-year-old brother Cooper from drowning when he slipped into a rushing irrigation ditch behind their home. Parker immediately screamed out to his mother and grandmother to alert them and quickly ran over to pull his younger

brother from the ditch. Parker's swift action and response saved Cooper's life.

It is my honor to recognize Parker for his incredible lifesaving action. Parker has made all of Montana proud for his bravery.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DINSDALE

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a great Coloradan, Chris Dinsdale, who will be inducted into the 2020 Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Chris is a banker and cattleman from Sterling, CO, who has devoted his life to benefiting his community.

Chris is the coowner of his own business, while also serving on multiple boards, and is the current cochairman of the Bank of Colorado. No matter his role, he works tirelessly to help our rural communities grow and ensure our agricultural producers are among the most successful in the country. His passion for Colorado can be seen in every action he takes.

I remember commenting to Chris about some of the new banks he was building in several towns across eastern Colorado. He smiled in response and said that he knew some of the banks would probably never make enough money to pay for the cost of the building but that "the community had been so good to them" that he wanted to repay the town with a beautiful new business they could be proud of. This is the kind of person Chris is, one who puts the community before himself, the kind of person who makes Colorado special.

Chris's knowledge and expertise in Colorado agriculture has been recognized throughout the State, as Chris has earned several coveted awards from his community, including—Sterling's Business Person of the Year, Elk Businessman of the Year, and Logan County Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award. These awards demonstrate his ability to not only grow his own business but his ability to create a better Colorado through his investments in new infrastructure, as well as tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities throughout the Eastern Plains. The impact Chris has had and will continue to have will benefit generations of Colorado agriculture.

I am proud to call Chris a friend, and he is more than deserving of this great honor.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HANAVAN

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a great Coloradan, Charles Hanavan, who will be inducted into the 2020 Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Charles has been a bedrock to the Colorado farming community and has been committed to upholding the legacy of family farming.

Charles was a longtime leader within the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, in

which he served as president from 1968 to 1970. Following that, he spent the next 11 years as vice president. During his time, he called on all residents, smalltown businessmen, farmers, and ranchers in rural communities to work with one another in order to prosper. In a memorable speech, he stated: "We must build and not destroy our rural towns, build and not eliminate our independent farmers and ranchers; we need and must have a coalition for survival." In 1991, he was granted honorary life membership and awarded Meritorious Service to the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union for his countless efforts to the organization and the community.

Furthering his commitment to rural farming communities, Charles served with the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Committee Board, which helped farmers establish themselves when banks would not offer them loans. Additionally, he served on the Colorado Highway Commission, the Colorado Farm Service Agency State Committee, as well as the Colorado Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. Through all of his roles, Charles has continued to seek innovative practices to improve agricultural operations in the state.

Charles is married to Patsy, and the two are the proud parents of 12 children, 33 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. His father settled on a farm south of Arapahoe in 1919, and they still own and operate that farm today.

Charles is a true example of what it means to be committed to family and community, and he is extremely deserving of this prestigious honor.●

TRIBUTE TO DON SHAWCROFT

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a great Coloradan, Don Shawcroft, who will be inducted into the 2020 Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Don is a fourth-generation Coloradan from the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado, whose leadership has helped push the State's agricultural industry forward.

Don graduated from Brigham Young University from the agricultural economics department. From there, he served as the State board member for the San Luis Valley to the Colorado Farm Bureau for many years and was vice president for 10 of those years. In 2010, he was elected president and in 2013 was elected to serve on the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Additionally, Don has served on the Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Board, a role in which he is on the boards of all its wholly owned subsidiaries, which most recently include the Colorado Farm Bureau Insurance Company.

Outside of the numerous Farm Bureau roles, Don has found time to be the director of the San Luis Valley Health and Mountain States Legal Foundation, further contributing his commitment to the State of Colorado and its communities.

The Shawcroft family has been ranching in the San Luis Valley since the late 1800s, and Don is continuing the family partnership. He is the husband to Ann, and the two have raised 6 children and have 17 grandchildren. The first time I saw the family farm, I was struck not only by the great beauty of the homestead, but by the pride and twinkle in the eye of a proud Colorado farmer.

The State of Colorado is fortunate to have Don's continued commitment to his community and the Colorado Farm Bureau, and he is beyond deserving of this honor.●

RECOGNIZING KELLOGG LUMBER

● 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 success 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 flourishing 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 Kellogg Lumber in Kellogg as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 21, 2019. Kellogg Lumber is a retail lumber and hardware store owned by U.S. Army veteran Steve Bristow. Bristow's grandfather, Daniel Fultz, began working as a bookkeeper for the company in 1951 and worked his way to become owner in the 1960s. Following a devastating fire in 1955, Fultz rebuilt the company and in 1989 passed it on to his son, Ronald Bristow. Ronald Bristow's son, Steve, and his wife, Teirza, acquired the company in 2007 and remain its owners today.

The company sells building materials, such as plywood, paint, and power tools, and serves clients who seek personal or commercial construction and remodels. Kellogg Lumber partners with well-known community vendors to provide reliable, quality products to their customers, who include homeowners, builders, and contractors. Many customers have relied on the company to serve their construction needs for more than 25 years. Bristow and the employees at Kellogg Lumber's hard work and expertise have earned them a reputation for exceptional customer service in the Kellogg community.

Congratulations to Steve and Teirza Bristow and all of the employees at Kellogg Lumber for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 21, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:26 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 182. An act to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

H.R. 255. An act to provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes.

H.R. 263. An act to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 737. An act to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

H.R. 925. An act to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024.

H.R. 1088. An act to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal Land in President's Park in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1446. An act to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1472. An act to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park.

H.R. 1487. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of

Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Huizenga of Michigan.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1838. An act to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2710. An act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills.

S. 862. An act to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

H.R. 3055. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3889. An act to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to make technical corrections.

H.R. 4258. An act to authorize the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police to protect the Justices, employees, and official guests of the Supreme Court outside of the Supreme Court grounds, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 3:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1309. An act to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 182. An act to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 255. An act to provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 263. An act to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 737. An act to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1088. An act to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal Land in President's Park in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1309. An act to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1446. An act to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1472. An act to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1487. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 2920. A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 21, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 862. An act to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

S. 1838. An act to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2710. An act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 860. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-160).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1882. A bill to make available the continued use of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program project use power by the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-161).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1294. A bill to require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment (Rept. No. 116-162).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Bernard Maurice Jones II, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Thomas Michael O'Connor, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Ralph Ignatius Sozio, of New York, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York for the term of four years.

(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. PAUL:

S. 2923. A bill to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2924. A bill to establish the Bandelier National Park and Preserve in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2925. A bill to provide consumer protections for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 2926. A bill to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2927. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2928. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reauthorize the Univer-

sity Sustainability Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2929. A bill to protect victims of crime or serious labor violations from removal during Department of Homeland Security enforcement actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2930. A bill to exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2931. A bill to establish a process for obtaining a Federal certificate of rehabilitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 2932. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to require broadcasters to obtain permission to transmit content owned by another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2933. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require a review of current exemptions granted to foreign entities in response to an attempt by a foreign authority to exercise direct supervisory authority over a domestic derivatives clearing organization; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2934. A bill to clarify United States policy toward Libya, advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya, and support the people of Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2935. A bill to prohibit the appointment of former fossil fuel executive officers and fossil fuel lobbyists as the heads of certain departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2936. A bill to provide for the admission and protection of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable individuals, to provide for the processing of refugees and asylum seekers in the Western Hemisphere, and to modify certain special immigrant visa programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2937. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to require employers to allow employees to take meal, medical, and restroom breaks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2938. A bill to amend the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to

support workers who are subject to an employment loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2939. A bill to provide an 8-year extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2940. A bill to amend the National Aviation Heritage Area Act to reauthorize the National Aviation Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2941. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consumer recycling education and outreach grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 2942. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain contributions by government entities are treated as contributions to capital; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2943. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to revise minimum nurse staffing requirements for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program and for nursing facilities under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2944. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include digital breast tomosynthesis as a primary and preventative health care service under the military health system and the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 2945. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the Ernest "Ernie" T. Pyle Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2946. A bill to provide direct appropriations for certain housing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2947. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to finalize a rule to protect consumers from the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning from keyless ignition motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2948. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program for work therapy using service dog training; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. MCSALLY,

Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2949. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2950. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH)):

S. 2951. A bill to facilitate the development of affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2952. A bill to reauthorize certain National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2953. A bill to provide congressional oversight of United States talks with Taliban officials and Afghanistan's comprehensive peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2954. A bill to establish a pilot toll credit marketplace program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2955. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2956. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a public auction of the C-band, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2957. A bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet retailers to ensure equitable consumer access to products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2958. A bill to provide the Food and Drug Administration with authority to conduct microbial sampling on concentrated animal feeding operations as necessary to facilitate a foodborne illness outbreak investigation, determine the root cause of an outbreak of foodborne illness, or address other public health needs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 436. A resolution supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of Prematurity Awareness Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. Res. 437. A resolution expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 438. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 439. A resolution designating December 1, 2019, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 440. A resolution designating December 14, 2019, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 441. A resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 12 Moon landing; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 442. A resolution designating November 2019 as "National Runaway Prevention Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 443. A resolution recognizing and celebrating on November 30, 2019, the vital role of small businesses and the efforts of the

Small Business Administration to help people in the United States start, build, and grow businesses; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. Res. 444. A resolution condemning the VH1 television show *Cartel Crew*; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 193

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 193, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to allow veterans 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. 505

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 505, a bill to ensure due process protections of individuals in the United States against unlawful detention based solely on a protected characteristic.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) 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. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 639

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 639, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

S. 702

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 702, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative, carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals and individuals with disabilities to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) 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. 866

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to provide funding for federally qualified health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 976

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual assault, and for other purposes.

S. 1037

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1186

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1186, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 1203

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1203, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the public service loan forgiveness program, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1416

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1416, a bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit anticompetitive behaviors by drug product manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S. 1443

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1443, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a non-refundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors 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. 1622

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

S. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1657, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ten-

nessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the charter of the Gold Star Wives of America to remove the restriction on the federally chartered corporation, and directors and officers of the corporation, attempting to influence legislation.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1820, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

S. 1908

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 1921

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1921, a bill to provide that primary care services provided by the National Health Service Corps may include palliative care services.

S. 1992

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1992, a bill to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2158

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to improve certain programs of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to heritable disorders.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2293, a bill to extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank of

the United States and to modify the quorum requirement of the Bank, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to improve the Fishery Resource Disaster Relief program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and for other purposes.

S. 2383

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2383, a bill to establish minimum standards of disclosure by franchises whose franchisees use loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration.

S. 2427

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2446

At the request of Mr. KING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2446, a bill to provide certain coverage of audiologist services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2469

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2469, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the use of advanced leak detection technology for pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 2552

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2552, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare.

S. 2570

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2570, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond in recognition of his service to the United States as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors 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. SHELBY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2695, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2695, *supra*.

S. 2713

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on indoor tanning services.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2714, a bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the ARPA-E program, and for other purposes.

S. 2741

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2741, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2754

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2754, a bill to create jobs and drive innovation and economic growth in the United States by supporting and promoting the manufacture of next-generation technologies, including refrigerants, solvents, fire suppressants, foam blowing agents, aerosols, and propellants.

S. 2793

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2793, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require coverage without a deductible of certain primary care services by high deductible health plans.

S. 2801

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2801, a bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

S. 2862

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2862, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to remove nonnative plant species that contribute to drought conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 2869

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2869, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S.J. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 6, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 22, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to

halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes.

S. RES. 150

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 150, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

S. RES. 292

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 292, a resolution calling on 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. 343

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 343, a resolution congratulating the people of the Czech Republic and the people of the Slovak Republic on the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the 26th anniversary of the formation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and the 101st anniversary of the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia.

S. RES. 404

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 404, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 435, a resolution reaffirming the importance of the General Security of Military Information Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1249

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1249 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 436—SUPPORTING THE GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND IDEALS OF PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 436

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, complications of preterm birth are now the leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 children die each year due to complications of preterm birth;

Whereas preterm birth is a global problem that exacts a toll on families from all parts of society in every country;

Whereas many complications of preterm birth may have lifelong consequences for the health, growth, and development of infants;

Whereas up to 75 percent of deaths resulting from preterm birth worldwide can be prevented through proven cost-effective strategies to promote full-term births and improve the care of preterm infants;

Whereas countries can improve maternal health and the survival rate of babies born prematurely by making strategic investments in health care systems to ensure access to high-quality pre-pregnancy care, prenatal care, childbirth services, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas the preterm birth rate in the United States has worsened for four consecutive years, rising from 9.63 percent in 2015 to 10.02 percent in 2018;

Whereas there are significant racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates among many communities in the United States;

Whereas there are disparities in preterm birth rates globally, with lower-income families at the highest risk of having a child preterm;

Whereas many preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs focused on reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, closely spaced pregnancies, and early elective deliveries; and

Whereas, in the United States and around the world, November is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition of Prematurity Awareness Month;

(2) honors individuals working domestically and internationally to reduce preterm births; and

(3) supports efforts at home and abroad to—

(A) reduce the impact of preterm births by improving maternal health during and after pregnancy;

(B) advance the care and treatment of infants born preterm; and

(C) promote evidence-based strategies to—

(i) prevent preterm birth and promote full-term births; and

(ii) improve outcomes for infants born preterm.

SENATE RESOLUTION 437—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 437

Whereas stomach cancer, also known as gastric cancer, is one of the most difficult cancers to detect in the early stages of the disease, which contributes to high mortality rates;

Whereas stomach cancer occurs when cancer cells develop in the lining of the stomach;

Whereas stomach cancer is the fifth most common type of cancer worldwide;

Whereas, in 2019—

(1) an estimated 27,510 cases of stomach cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and

(2) an estimated 11,140 people in the United States will die from stomach cancer;

Whereas the estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 31.5 percent;

Whereas, in the United States, stomach cancer is more prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities;

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among patients and health care providers could improve timely recognition of stomach cancer symptoms;

Whereas more research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer is needed; and

Whereas November 2019 is an appropriate month to observe Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month;

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among the general public of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages States, territories, and localities of the United States to support the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH AND NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN WAITING FOR ADOPTION, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms.

SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 438

Whereas there are far too many unparented children in the United States;

Whereas the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Report on fiscal year 2018 foster care and adoption population characteristics (referred to in this preamble as the "AFCARS report") indicates that there are approximately 437,300 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 125,400 of whom are waiting for adoption;

Whereas the AFCARS report indicates that—

(1) 65 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are 10 years of age or younger;

(2) the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 20 months;

(3) in fiscal year 2018, approximately 17,800 youth "aged out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home; and

(4) in fiscal year 2018, the number of children who—

(A) achieved permanency through adoption increased for the fourth year in a row; and

(B) entered foster care decreased for the second year in a row;

Whereas, still, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas a survey conducted in 2017 (referred to in this preamble as the "2017 survey") showed that a quarter of respondents who had not adopted had considered adoption;

Whereas the 2017 survey showed that 46 percent of respondents either somewhat or strongly agreed that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, despite the AFCARS report revealing that neglect was associated with 62 percent of cases involving the removal of a child, or approximately 163,500 cases;

Whereas the 2017 survey showed that—

(1) 39 percent of respondents believed foster care adoption is expensive; and

(2) a majority of respondents considering foster care adoption indicated that receiving financial and emotional support would make a difference in their decision to pursue adoption;

Whereas the Children's Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services, supports programs, research, and monitoring to help eliminate barriers to adoption and find permanent families for children;

Whereas, every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month;

Whereas National Adoption Day has been celebrated as a collective national effort to find permanent and loving families for children in the foster care system; and

Whereas the Saturday before Thanksgiving has been recognized as National Adoption Day since at least 2000, and, in 2019, the Saturday before Thanksgiving is November 23; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 1, 2019, AS "DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY"

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 439

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on roads and highways should drive in a safe manner so as to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms—

(i) to alert employee drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(ii) to publicize the importance of driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving on the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving;

(E) motorists to drive safely during the holiday season and throughout the rest of the year; and

(F) the people of the United States—

(i) to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt; and

(ii) to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates December 1, 2019, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

SENATE RESOLUTION 440—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 14, 2019, AS "WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 440

Whereas, in 1992, the Wreaths Across America project—

(1) began by establishing an annual tradition of donating and transporting Maine bal-

sam fir veterans' wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery each December and placing those wreaths on the graves of fallen heroes buried there; and

(2) placed 5,000 donated veterans' wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, during the 28-year period preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 7,882,300 wreaths were sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to "Remember, Honor, Teach", is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

(1) Arlington National Cemetery;

(2) veterans cemeteries; and

(3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between the State of Maine and the Commonwealth of Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;

(2) honoring those who serve; and

(3) teaching the next generation of children about—

(A) the service of veterans; and

(B) the sacrifices made by veterans and the their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2018, approximately 1,800,000 veterans' wreaths were delivered to 1,644 locations across the United States and overseas, including more than 9,300 wreaths placed at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, an increase of more than 200 locations compared to the previous year;

Whereas, in December 2019, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will be continued by—

(1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and

(2) other patriotic escort units, including—

(A) motorcycle units;

(B) law enforcement units; and

(C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans' wreaths;

Whereas, in 2019, the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 1,700 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 15, 2018, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2019, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans' wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 14, 2019, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, their family members, and members of the Armed

Forces have made and continue to make for the United States, a great nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 441—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 12 MOON LANDING

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 441

Whereas, on May 25, 1961, before a joint session of Congress, President John F. Kennedy—

(1) declared, “Now it is time to take longer strides—time for a great new American enterprise—time for this Nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on Earth.”; and

(2) with his words, set the goal of sending astronauts to the Moon and returning them safely to the Earth;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this preamble as “NASA”) mobilized and established the Apollo space program to meet the goal set by President Kennedy;

Whereas the Apollo space program built on the achievements of the prior space programs of NASA, including the Mercury and Gemini missions;

Whereas the successful Moon landing honored the tragic sacrifice of every astronaut whose life had previously been lost in the service of United States spaceflight research, including—

(1) Roger B. Chaffee, Virgil “Gus” I. Grissom, and Edward H. White II, the astronauts who lost their lives during the preflight test for Apollo 1; and

(2) Theodore C. Freeman, Charles A. Bassett II, Elliot See, Jr., Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., Michael J. Adams, and Clifton C. Williams, Jr.;

Whereas the crew of the Apollo 12 mission consisted of—

(1) Charles “Pete” Conrad, Jr., Mission Commander;

(2) Alan Bean, Lunar Module Pilot; and

(3) Richard F. Gordon, Command Module Pilot;

Whereas the entire Apollo 12 crew consisted of individuals who had served in the Navy;

Whereas the official insignia of the mission was the clipper ship, which increased the use of the seas by the United States, just as the Apollo program increased the use of space-based knowledge and exploration;

Whereas David R. Scott, Alfred M. Worden, and James B. Irwin stood ready to support or stand in for the Apollo 12 crew;

Whereas, on November 14, 1969, the Apollo 12 crew launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Center aboard a Saturn V rocket;

Whereas, on November 19, 1969, the Intrepid Lunar Module landed on the surface of the Moon as the second-ever crewed Moon mission of the United States;

Whereas Apollo 12 carried the second Apollo crew to the moon to build on the work of the first crew from Apollo 11;

Whereas the crew of Apollo 12 conducted an orbital maneuver to land in the Western Hemisphere of the Moon to recover portions

of a previous lander that had been on the surface of the Moon for 2 years to study the effects of extended exposure to the surface of the Moon;

Whereas the crew of Apollo 12 planted the flag of the United States in lunar soil, and images of the lunar surface indicate that the Apollo 12 flag is still standing;

Whereas the Intrepid carried flags from 136 nations, the United Nations, and the 50 States and the territories of the United States, representing the international coordination and collaboration of space exploration and the scientific intent of the Apollo missions;

Whereas the Apollo 12 crew collected lunar samples and conducted experiments to gain a better understanding of the composition of the Moon and conditions on its surface;

Whereas Apollo 12 deployed the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package, a set of instruments left on the surface of the Moon to gather data;

Whereas the success of the Apollo 12 Moon landing was a result of the skill, dedication, and collective effort of tens of thousands of workers, scientists, engineers, and contractors of the United States;

Whereas the Apollo 12 mission further demonstrated the focus and capability of the scientific community of the United States and cemented the United States as the world leader in space exploration;

Whereas, 50 years later, the Apollo 12 Moon landing continues to inspire national and international scientific efforts in space, medicine, and other fields; and

Whereas the knowledge and experience gained from the Apollo space program continues to inform missions to Mars, the far reaches of the solar system, and beyond: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 12 Moon landing;

(2) honors the bravery and skill of Charles “Pete” Conrad, Jr., Alan Bean, and Richard F. Gordon, the crew of Apollo 12;

(3) commends the efforts of all of the individuals of the United States who contributed to the achievement of the Apollo 12 Moon landing, exemplifying a cooperative effort on a national scale that continues to inspire scientific progress; and

(4) supports the continued leadership of the United States in the exploration and use of space through human spaceflight.

SENATE RESOLUTION 442—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH”

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 442

Whereas results from the Voices of Youth Count national survey, as published by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago in “Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America”, indicates that an estimated 4,200,000 youth and young adults between 13 and 24 years of age experienced homelessness during a 12-month period ending in 2017, including—

(1) an estimated 700,000 children between 13 and 17 years of age who experienced unaccompanied homelessness; and

(2) an estimated 3,500,000 young adults between 18 and 24 years of age;

Whereas the rates of youth experiencing homelessness are similar in rural and nonrural areas;

Whereas runaway youth often have been expelled from their homes by their families, have experienced abuse and trauma, are involved in the foster care system, are too poor to secure their own basic needs, and may be ineligible or unable to access medical or mental health resources;

Whereas individuals without a high school degree or general educational development certificate are nearly 4 times more likely to report homelessness than their peers, making lack of education a leading risk factor for homelessness;

Whereas youth of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) youth experience higher rates of homelessness than their straight and White peers;

Whereas pregnant youth, parents who are 25 years of age or younger, and their children experience higher rates of homelessness than youth and young adults without children;

Whereas runaway and homeless youth are at an increased risk for exploitation and becoming victims of sex and labor trafficking, and between 19 percent and 49 percent of young people who experience homelessness will become victims of trafficking;

Whereas youth who run away from home or from foster care are more likely to be coerced into participating in criminal activity, joining a gang, or using illegal drugs, which lead to a higher likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system;

Whereas preventing youth from running away from home or from foster care and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national responsibility;

Whereas the future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the value placed on youth and the opportunities provided for youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to help youth successfully develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting youth and their families in providing safe and stable homes succeed because of partnerships created among families, youth-based advocacy organizations, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses; and

Whereas the National Runaway Safeline and the National Network for Youth are leading the promotion of National Runaway Prevention Month in November 2019—

(1) to raise awareness of the runaway and homeless youth crisis and the issues these young people face; and

(2) to educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in ending youth homelessness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2019 as “National Runaway Prevention Month”; and

(2) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 443—RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2019, THE VITAL ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE EFFORTS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES START, BUILD, AND GROW BUSINESSES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr.

BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

S. RES. 443

Whereas, as of September 2019, there are more than 30,700,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas small businesses in the United States—

(1) represent 99.9 percent of all businesses in the United States;

(2) employ nearly 48 percent of private sector employees in the United States;

(3) constitute almost 2 of every 3 new jobs; and

(4) constitute 97.5 percent of firms that export goods; and

Whereas November 30, 2019, is an appropriate day to recognize small businesses and encourage consumers to support local small businesses during the holiday shopping season: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners in the United States;

(2) recognizing the importance of creating policies that promote a business-friendly environment for small business owners that is free of unnecessary and burdensome regulations and red tape;

(3) supporting and encouraging young entrepreneurs to pursue passions and create more startup businesses;

(4) showing appreciation for the many ways in which small businesses support—

(A) the communities of which small businesses are a part; and

(B) the workers who are employed by small businesses; and

(5) celebrating the invaluable contribution that small businesses make to the United States as the backbone of the economy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 444—CONDEMNING THE VH1 TELEVISION SHOW CARTEL CREW

Mr. KENNEDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 444

Whereas the VH1 television show *Cartel Crew* glorifies drug cartels and individuals who live in luxury as a result of the wealth that drug cartels corruptly amass;

Whereas there is concern that youth across the United States may watch *Cartel Crew* and come to believe that crime is profitable;

Whereas the words and deeds of the cast members of *Cartel Crew* suggest that those cast members have no interest in separating themselves from their illicit pasts;

Whereas the relatives of the cast members of *Cartel Crew* are some of the worst criminals in history;

Whereas the mother of Michael Blanco, Griselda Blanco, is better known as “Cocaine Godmother”, a drug lord in the Medellín Car-

tel who was responsible for nearly 200 murders while transporting cocaine from Colombia to the United States in the 1990s and early 2000s;

Whereas Michael Blanco defended his mother when asked about her crimes, saying that she “didn’t have a choice”, due to the fact that she grew up poor;

Whereas the newest addition to the cast of *Cartel Crew*, Emma Coronel Aispuro (referred to in this preamble as “Aispuro”), is the wife of Joaquín Guzmán Loera (referred to in this preamble as “El Chapo”);

Whereas, as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, El Chapo is the single most dangerous individual alive, having created the Sinaloa Cartel and led it on its destructive path of trafficking drugs and individuals for decades;

Whereas, since establishing his crime syndicate in the late 1980s, El Chapo has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of individuals, through both direct violence and the devastating impact of drug addiction;

Whereas, at one point, El Chapo was on the Ten Most Wanted Fugitive List published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas Aispuro—

(1) helped El Chapo escape from a Mexican prison; and

(2) was under investigation in the United States as recently as April 2019; and

Whereas Aispuro clearly intends to profit from the notoriety her cartel connections afford her, as she is developing a clothing line called “El Chapo Guzman”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges VH1—

(1) to cancel *Cartel Crew*;

(2) to reconsider its standards when developing television shows so that victims of cartel bloodshed and destruction are not further harmed; and

(3) to be a better steward of public media by refusing to spread the erroneous message that crime is profitable.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1251. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1430, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees.

SA 1252. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1846, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

SA 1253. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1294, to require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1251. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1430, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees; as follows:

On page 2, line 11, strike “appointed” and insert “designated”.

On page 2, line 23, strike “appointed” and insert “designated”.

SA 1252. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the

bill S. 1846, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2201 (6 U.S.C. 651)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ shall include—

“(A) an association, corporation, whether for-profit or nonprofit, partnership, proprietorship, organization, institution, establishment, or individual, whether domestic or foreign;

“(B) a governmental agency or other governmental entity, whether domestic or foreign, including State, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities; and

“(C) the general public.”; and

(2) in section 2202 (6 U.S.C. 652)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) carry out the authority of the Secretary under subsection (e)(1)(R); and”;

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(R) To make grants to and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and other non-Federal entities as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary related to cybersecurity and infrastructure security under this Act and any other provision of law, including grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that provide assistance and education related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures and cybersecurity technologies, cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings.”; and

(3) in section 2209 (6 U.S.C. 659)—

(A) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting “operational and” after “timely”;

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(E), by inserting “, including an entity that collaborates with election officials,” after “governments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COORDINATION ON CYBERSECURITY FOR FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(1) COORDINATION.—The Center shall, to the extent practicable, and in coordination as appropriate with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center—

“(A) conduct exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

“(B) provide operational and technical cybersecurity training related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities to address cybersecurity risks or incidents, with or without reimbursement;

“(C) assist Federal and non-Federal entities, upon request, in sharing cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents from and to the

Federal Government as well as among Federal and non-Federal entities, in order to increase situational awareness and help prevent incidents;

“(D) provide notifications containing specific incident and malware information that may affect them or their customers and residents;

“(E) provide and periodically update via a web portal and other means tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and other cybersecurity standards and best practices and procedures related to information security;

“(F) work with senior Federal and non-Federal officials, including State and local Chief Information Officers, senior election officials, and through national associations, to coordinate a nationwide effort to ensure effective implementation of tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures related to information security to secure and ensure the resiliency of Federal and non-Federal information systems and including election systems;

“(G) provide, upon request, operational and technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities to implement tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security, including by, as appropriate, deploying and sustaining cybersecurity technologies, such as an intrusion detection capability, to assist those Federal and non-Federal entities in detecting cybersecurity risks and incidents;

“(H) assist Federal and non-Federal entities in developing policies and procedures for coordinating vulnerability disclosures, to the extent practicable, consistent with international and national standards in the information technology industry;

“(I) ensure that Federal and non-Federal entities, as appropriate, are made aware of the tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security developed by the Department and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies for ensuring the security and resiliency of civilian information systems; and

“(J) promote cybersecurity education and awareness through engagements with Federal and non-Federal entities.

“(o) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the status of cybersecurity measures that are in place, and any gaps that exist, in each State and in the largest urban areas of the United States.”.

SA 1253. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1294, to require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Broadband Interagency Coordination Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

- (1) the term “covered agency” means—
 - (A) the Federal Communications Commission;
 - (B) the Department of Agriculture; and
 - (C) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; and

(2) the term “high-cost programs” means—

(A) the programs for Universal Service Support for High-Cost Areas set forth under subpart D of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

(B) the Remote Areas Fund set forth under subpart J of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

(C) the Interstate Common Line Support Mechanism for Rate-of-Return Carriers set forth under subpart K of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

(D) the Mobility Fund set forth under subpart L of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

(E) the High Cost Loop Support for Rate-of-Return Carriers program set forth under subpart M of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

(b) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the heads of the covered agencies shall enter into an interagency agreement requiring coordination between the covered agencies for the distribution of funds for broadband deployment under—

- (1) the high-cost programs;
- (2) the programs administered by the Rural Utilities Service of the Department of Agriculture; and

(3) the programs administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In entering into an interagency agreement with respect to the programs described in subsection (b), the heads of the covered agencies shall—

(1) require that the covered agencies share information with each other about existing or planned projects that have received or will receive funds under the programs described in subsection (b) for new broadband deployment;

(2) provide that—

(A) subject to subparagraph (B), upon request from another covered agency with authority to award or authorize any funds for new broadband deployment in a project area, a covered agency shall provide the other covered agency with any information the covered agency possesses regarding, with respect to the project area—

- (i) each entity that provides broadband service in the area;
- (ii) levels of broadband service provided in the area, including the speed of broadband service and the technology provided;
- (iii) the geographic scope of broadband service coverage in the area; and
- (iv) each entity that has received or will receive funds under the programs described in subsection (b) to provide broadband service in the area; and

(B) if a covered agency designates any information provided to another covered agency under subparagraph (A) as confidential, the other covered agency shall protect the confidentiality of that information;

(3) designate the Federal Communications Commission as the entity primarily responsible for—

- (A) coordinating among the covered agencies; and
- (B) storing or maintaining access to all broadband deployment data;
- (4) consider basing the distribution of funds for broadband deployment under the programs described in subsection (b) on standardized data regarding broadband coverage; and

(5) provide that the interagency agreement shall be updated periodically, except that the scope of the agreement with respect to the Federal Communications Commission may not expand beyond the high-cost programs.

(d) ASSESSMENT OF AGREEMENT.—

(1) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 1 year after entering into the interagency agreement required under subsection (b), the Federal Communications Commission shall seek public comment on—

(A) the effectiveness of the interagency agreement in facilitating efficient use of funds for broadband deployment;

(B) the availability of Tribal, State, and local data regarding broadband deployment and the inclusion of that data in interagency coordination; and

(C) modifications to the interagency agreement that would improve the efficacy of interagency coordination.

(2) ASSESSMENT; REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall—

(A) review and assess the comments received under paragraph (1); and

(B) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report detailing any findings and recommendations from the assessment conducted under subparagraph (A).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 10 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 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Bernard Maurice Jones II, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and Thomas Michael O’Connor, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas, and Ralph Ignatius Sozio, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York, both of the Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Peter Stahley and Jordan Kahn, two legislative fellows of my staff, are granted privileges of the floor for the 116th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to retired Army CPT Jonathan Ng, a Department of Defense fellow serving in my office, for the remainder of this session of Congress.

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elizabeth Ahkivgak, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 437, S. Res. 438, S. Res. 439, S. Res. 440, and S. Res. 441.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, that the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 437, S. Res. 438, S. Res. 439, S. Res. 440, and S. Res. 441) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4566

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives H.R. 4566 and the text is identical to the text of S. 2592, as introduced, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4566; that the bill be considered read a third time; and that the Senate vote on the passage of the bill; finally, if passed, that the motion 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.

CHARGING HELPS AGENCIES REALIZE GENERAL EFFICIENCIES ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 199, S. 2193.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2193) to require the Administrator of General Services to issue guidance to clarify that Federal agencies may pay by charge card for the charging of Federal electric motor vehicles, 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.)

S. 2193

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 "Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act" or the "CHARGE Act".

SEC. 2. PAYMENT BY CHARGE CARD FOR CHARGING FEDERAL ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services;

(2) the term "charge card"—

[(A) means a card, plate, coupon book, or other credit device existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit; and]

(A) means a card, plate, coupon book, or other means existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services; and

(B) includes—

(i) a card issued under the GSA SmartPay program; and

(ii) a Fleet Services card;

(3) the term "covered electric motor vehicle" means a passenger carrier that is—

(A) a passenger motor vehicle; and

(B) an electric motor vehicle;

(4) the term "electric motor vehicle" has the meaning given the term in section 601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13271);

(5) the term "electric motor vehicle charging station" means a battery-charging station that permits the transfer of electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other storage device in an electric motor vehicle; and

(6) the terms "Federal agency" and "passenger carrier" have the meanings given those terms in section 1344(h) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance to clarify that each Federal agency may, in accordance with section 1344 of title 31, United States Code—

(1) charge a covered electric motor vehicle at a commercial electric motor vehicle charging station; and

(2) pay for a transaction described in paragraph (1) with a charge card.

(c) ISSUANCE OF CHARGE CARDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue to each Federal agency a charge card for each covered electric motor vehicle of the Federal agency that may be used by an officer or employee of the Federal agency to [charge] pay for charging the covered motor vehicle in accordance with the guidance issued under subsection (b).

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported

amendments be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 2193), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2193

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 "Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act" or the "CHARGE Act".

SEC. 2. PAYMENT BY CHARGE CARD FOR CHARGING FEDERAL ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services;

(2) the term "charge card"—

(A) means a card, plate, coupon book, or other means existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services; and

(B) includes—

(i) a card issued under the GSA SmartPay program; and

(ii) a Fleet Services card;

(3) the term "covered electric motor vehicle" means a passenger carrier that is—

(A) a passenger motor vehicle; and

(B) an electric motor vehicle;

(4) the term "electric motor vehicle" has the meaning given the term in section 601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13271);

(5) the term "electric motor vehicle charging station" means a battery-charging station that permits the transfer of electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other storage device in an electric motor vehicle; and

(6) the terms "Federal agency" and "passenger carrier" have the meanings given those terms in section 1344(h) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance to clarify that each Federal agency may, in accordance with section 1344 of title 31, United States Code—

(1) charge a covered electric motor vehicle at a commercial electric motor vehicle charging station; and

(2) pay for a transaction described in paragraph (1) with a charge card.

(c) ISSUANCE OF CHARGE CARDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue to each Federal agency a charge card for each covered electric motor vehicle of the Federal agency that may be used by an officer or employee of the Federal agency to pay for charging the covered motor vehicle in accordance with the guidance issued under subsection (b).

REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 148, S. 1430.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1430) to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees.

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.)

S. 1430

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 “Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FRAUD.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8331 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (31), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (32), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(33) ‘representative payee’ means a person (including an organization) appointed under section 8345(e)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability.”.

(2) FERS.—Section 8401 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (37), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (38), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(39) ‘representative payee’ means a person (including an organization) appointed under section 8466(c)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability.”.

(b) EMBEZZLEMENT OR CONVERSION.—

(1) CSRS.—Subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8345 the following:

“§ 8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

“(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly revoke payments to the representative payee.”

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

“(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

“(B) certify payment—

“(i) to another representative payee; or

“(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”. [more than 5 years, or both.

“(c) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—Any willful neglect or refusal by a representative payee to make and file proper accountings or reports concerning the amounts received from payments authorized under section 8345(e) as required by law shall be taken to be sufficient evidence prima facie of the embezzlement or conversion of such amounts.”.]

(2) FERS.—Subchapter VI of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8466 the following:

“§ 8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

“(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly revoke payments to the representative payee.”

“(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

“(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

“(B) certify payment—

“(i) to another representative payee; or

“(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”. [more than 5 years, or both.

“(c) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—Any willful neglect or refusal by a representative payee to make and file proper accountings or reports concerning the amounts received from payments authorized under section 8466(c) as required by law shall be taken to be sufficient evidence prima facie of the embezzlement or conversion of such amounts.”.]

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) The table of sections for chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8345 the following:

“8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments.”.

(B) The table of sections for chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8466 the following:

“8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments.”.

(c) DEFERRAL OF PAYMENT PENDING APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(e)”;

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting “(including an organization)” after “person”;

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting “(including an organization)” after “any person”; and

(ii) by inserting “and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant” after “claimant” the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee

is made. *The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due.*”.

(2) FERS.—Section 8466(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”;

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting “(including an organization)” after “person”;

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting “(including an organization)” after “any person”; and

(ii) by inserting “and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant” after “claimant” the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee is made. *The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due.*”.

(d) LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (e) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

“(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

“(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, [and] 1383a); or

“(3) section 6101 of title 38.”.

(2) FERS.—Section 8466 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (c) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

“(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

“(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, [and] 1383a); or

“(3) section 6101 of title 38.”.

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION.

[(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Amounts in the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund may be used by the Office of Personnel Management, without further appropriation, for the cost of activities of the Office relating to preventing fraud by representative payees (as defined in section 8331 and 8401 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this Act).]

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Section 8348(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “in administering fraud prevention under sections 8345, 8345a, 8466, and 8466a of this title,” after “8465(b) of this title.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management—

(1) shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendments made by [this Act] section 2; and

(2) may promulgate additional regulations relating to the administration of the representative payee program.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by [this Act] section 2—

(1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply on and after the effective date of the regulations promulgated under section 3(b)(1).

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed

to; that the Lankford amendment at the desk be agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1251) is as follows:

(Purpose: To make certain corrections)

On page 2, line 11, strike "appointed" and insert "designated".

On page 2, line 23, strike "appointed" and insert "designated".

The bill (S. 1430), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1430

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 "Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FRAUD.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8331 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (31), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (32), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(33) 'representative payee' means a person (including an organization) designated under section 8345(e)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability."

(2) FERS.—Section 8401 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (37), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (38), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(39) 'representative payee' means a person (including an organization) designated under section 8466(c)(1) to receive payments on behalf of a minor or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability."

(b) EMBEZZLEMENT OR CONVERSION.—

(1) CSRS.—Subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8345 the following:

"§ 8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

"(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

"(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

"(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

"(B) certify payment—

"(i) to another representative payee; or

"(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

"(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both."

(2) FERS.—Subchapter VI of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8466 the following:

"§ 8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments

"(a) EMBEZZLING AND CONVERSION GENERALLY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a representative payee to embezzle or in any manner convert all or any part of the amounts received from payments received as a representative payee to a use other than for the use and benefit of the minor or individual on whose behalf such payments were received.

"(2) REVOCATION.—If the Office determines that a representative payee has embezzled or converted payments as described in paragraph (1), the Office shall promptly—

"(A) revoke the certification for payment of benefits to the representative payee; and

"(B) certify payment—

"(i) to another representative payee; or

"(ii) if the interest of the individual under this title would be served thereby, to the individual.

"(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both."

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) The table of sections for chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8345 the following:

"8345a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments."

(B) The table of sections for chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8466 the following:

"8466a. Embezzlement or conversion of payments."

(c) DEFERRAL OF PAYMENT PENDING APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting "(1)" after "(e)";

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting "(including an organization)" after "person";

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting "(including an organization)" after "any person"; and

(ii) by inserting "and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant" after "claimant" the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee is made. The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due."

(2) FERS.—Section 8466(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting "(1)" after "(c)";

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting "(including an organization)" after "person";

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting "(including an organization)" after "any person"; and

(ii) by inserting "and may appropriately receive such payments on behalf of the claimant" after "claimant" the second place it appears; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) If the Office determines that direct payment of a benefit to an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability would cause substantial harm to the individual, the Office may defer or suspend

direct payment of the benefit until such time as the appointment of a representative payee is made. The Office shall resume payment as soon as practicable, including all amounts due."

(d) LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8345 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (e) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

"(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

"(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, 1383a); or

"(3) section 6101 of title 38."

(2) FERS.—Section 8466 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) The Office may not authorize a person to receive payments on behalf of a minor or individual of legal disability under subsection (c) if that person has been convicted of a violation of—

"(1) section 8345a or 8466a;

"(2) section 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408, 1383a); or

"(3) section 6101 of title 38."

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Section 8348(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "in administering fraud prevention under sections 8345, 8345a, 8466, and 8466a of this title," after "8465(b) of this title."

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management—

(1) shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendments made by section 2; and

(2) may promulgate additional regulations relating to the administration of the representative payee program.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 2—

(1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply on and after the effective date of the regulations promulgated under section 3(b)(1).

DESIGNATING THE COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA, AS THE TRAVIS W. ATKINS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 900 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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. 900) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bozeman, Montana, as the "Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be

considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 900) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 900

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF TRAVIS W. ATKINS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 300 North Willson Avenue, Bozeman, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Travis W. Atkins VA Clinic”.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

DESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN ODESSA, TEXAS, AS THE WILSON AND YOUNG MEDAL OF HONOR VA CLINIC

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2334 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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 (H.R. 2334) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the “Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic”.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2334) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following calendar bills en bloc: Calendar Nos. 247 and 293 through 303.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and the motions

to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 2451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CAPTAIN ROBERT C. HARMON AND PRIVATE JOHN R. PEIRSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

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

(The bill is printed in the Record of Monday, December 2, 2019)

JERRY C. WASHBURN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (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,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MARILYN MONROE POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 1252) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RITCHIE VALENS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (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,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EVA G. HEWITT POST OFFICE

The bill (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,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORPORAL ALEX MARTINEZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (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,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JEANNETTE RANKIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1972) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the “Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SHANNON M. KENT POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 2151) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (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,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JOSE RAMOS POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (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,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LAKE HAVASU CITY COMBAT VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (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,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

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

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM ACT OF 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 36, S. 333.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 333) to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, 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.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 333) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 333

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 Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “consortium” means a group primarily composed of nonprofit entities, including academic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver cybersecurity training in support of homeland security;

(2) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “incident” have the meanings given those terms in section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(a));

(3) the term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security; and

(4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with a consortium to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents.

(b) ASSISTANCE TO THE NCCIC.—The Secretary may work with a consortium to assist the national cybersecurity and communications integration center of the Department (established under section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659)) to—

(1) provide training to State and local first responders and officials specifically for preparing for and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, in accordance with applicable law;

(2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing existing programs and models in accordance with such section 2209, for State and local first responders and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

(3) provide technical assistance services to build and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness for and response to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of

terrorism and acts of terrorism, in accordance with such section 2209;

(4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training and simulation exercises for entities, including State and local governments, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and private industry, to encourage community-wide coordination in defending against and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, in accordance with section 2210(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660(c));

(5) help States and communities develop cybersecurity information sharing programs, in accordance with section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for the dissemination of homeland security information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents; and

(6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and incident prevention and response into existing State and local emergency plans, including continuity of operations plans.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consideration the following:

(1) Any prior experience conducting cybersecurity training and exercises for State and local entities.

(2) Geographic diversity of the members of any such consortium so as to cover different regions throughout the United States.

(d) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consortium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consortium under this Act.

(e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct outreach to universities and colleges, including historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, by working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize a consortium to control or direct any law enforcement agency in the exercise of the duties of the law enforcement agency.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 194, S. 1846.

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. 1846) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldfaced brackets.)

S. 1846

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 “State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2201 (6 U.S.C. 651)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ shall include—

“(A) an association, corporation, whether for-profit or nonprofit, partnership, proprietorship, organization, institution, establishment, or individual, whether domestically or foreign owned, that has the legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, sue and be sued in its own right in a court of competent jurisdiction in the United States, and to be held responsible for its actions;

“(B) a governmental agency or other governmental entity, including State, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities; and

“(C) the general public.”; and

(2) in section 2202 (6 U.S.C. 652)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) carry out the authority of the Secretary under subsection (e)(1)(R); and”;

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(R) To make grants to and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States, local governments, and other non-Federal entities as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary related to cybersecurity and infrastructure security under this Act and any other provision of law, including grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that provide assistance and education related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures and cybersecurity technologies, cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings.”; and

(3) in section 2209 (6 U.S.C. 659)—

(A) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting “operational and” after “timely”;

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(E), by inserting “, including an entity that collaborates with election officials,” after “governments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COORDINATION ON CYBERSECURITY FOR FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(1) COORDINATION.—The Center shall, to the extent practicable, and in coordination as appropriate with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center—

“(A) conduct exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

“(B) provide operational and technical cybersecurity training related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities to address cybersecurity risks or incidents, with or without reimbursement;

“(C) assist Federal and non-Federal entities, upon request, in sharing cyber threat

indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents from and to the Federal Government as well as among Federal and non-Federal entities, in order to increase situational awareness and help prevent incidents;

“(D) provide notifications containing specific incident and malware information that may affect them or their customers and residents;

“(E) provide and periodically update via a web portal and other means tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and other cybersecurity standards and best practices and procedures related to information security;

“(F) work with senior Federal and non-Federal officials, including State and local Chief Information Officers, senior election officials, and through national associations, to coordinate a nationwide effort to ensure effective implementation of tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures related to information security to secure and ensure the resiliency of Federal and non-Federal information systems and including election systems;

“(G) provide, upon request, operational and technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities to implement tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security, including by, as appropriate, deploying and sustaining cybersecurity technologies, such as an intrusion detection capability, to assist those Federal and non-Federal entities in detecting cybersecurity risks and incidents;

“(H) assist Federal and non-Federal entities in developing policies and procedures for coordinating vulnerability disclosures, to the extent practicable, consistent with international and national standards in the information technology industry;

“(I) ensure that Federal and non-Federal entities, as appropriate, are made aware of the tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security developed by the Department and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies for ensuring the security and resiliency of civilian information systems; and

“(J) promote cybersecurity education and awareness through engagements with Federal and non-Federal entities.

“(o) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the status of cybersecurity measures that are in place, and any gaps that exist, in each State and in the largest urban areas of the United States.

“(p) PILOT DEPLOYMENT OF SENSORS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to deploy network sensors capable of utilizing classified indicators for the purpose of identifying and filtering malicious network traffic.

“(2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Activities related to the pilot program established under this subsection may only be carried out on a voluntary basis in coordination with the owner of the impacted network.

“(3) EXPANSION AUTHORITY.—If, after 12 months of deployment, the Secretary determines that the network sensors deployed pursuant to this subsection would provide network security benefits to other critical infrastructure sectors, the Secretary may make additional network sensors available to those sectors on a voluntary basis at the

request of critical infrastructure owners and operators.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, which shall include—

“(A) the status of the pilot program;

“(B) the rate of voluntary participation in the pilot program;

“(C) the effectiveness of the pilot program in detecting and blocking traffic that could not have been captured without the network sensors deployed under the pilot program; and

“(D) recommendations for expanding the use of classified threat indicators to protect United States critical infrastructure.”

“(p) DEPLOYMENT OF ENHANCED CAPABILITIES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary may establish an initiative to enhance efforts to deploy technical or analytic capabilities or services that utilize classified cyber threat indicators or intelligence for the purpose of detecting or preventing malicious network traffic on unclassified non-Federal information systems.

“(2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Activities conducted under this subsection may only be carried out on a voluntary basis upon request of the non-Federal entity.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the initiative under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the initiative, which shall include—

“(A) the status of the initiative;

“(B) the rate of voluntary participation in the initiative;

“(C) the effectiveness of the initiative; and

“(D) recommendations for expanding the use of classified cyber threat indicators to protect non-Federal entities.”

Mrs. FISCHER. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1252) in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2201 (6 U.S.C. 651)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ shall include—

“(A) an association, corporation, whether for-profit or nonprofit, partnership, proprietorship, organization, institution, establishment, or individual, whether domestic or foreign;

“(B) a governmental agency or other governmental entity, whether domestic or foreign, including State, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities; and

“(C) the general public.”; and

(2) in section 2202 (6 U.S.C. 652)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) carry out the authority of the Secretary under subsection (e)(1)(R); and”; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(R) To make grants to and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and other non-Federal entities as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary related to cybersecurity and infrastructure security under this Act and any other provision of law, including grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that provide assistance and education related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures and cybersecurity technologies, cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings.”; and

(3) in section 2209 (6 U.S.C. 659)—

(A) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting “operational and” after “timely”;

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(E), by inserting “, including an entity that collaborates with election officials,” after “governments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COORDINATION ON CYBERSECURITY FOR FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(1) COORDINATION.—The Center shall, to the extent practicable, and in coordination as appropriate with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center—

“(A) conduct exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

“(B) provide operational and technical cybersecurity training related to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities to address cybersecurity risks or incidents, with or without reimbursement;

“(C) assist Federal and non-Federal entities, upon request, in sharing cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents from and to the Federal Government as well as among Federal and non-Federal entities, in order to increase situational awareness and help prevent incidents;

“(D) provide notifications containing specific incident and malware information that may affect them or their customers and residents;

“(E) provide and periodically update via a web portal and other means tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and other cybersecurity standards and best practices and procedures related to information security;

“(F) work with senior Federal and non-Federal officials, including State and local Chief Information Officers, senior election officials, and through national associations, to coordinate a nationwide effort to ensure effective implementation of tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and

procedures related to information security to secure and ensure the resiliency of Federal and non-Federal information systems and including election systems;

“(G) provide, upon request, operational and technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities to implement tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security, including by, as appropriate, deploying and sustaining cybersecurity technologies, such as an intrusion detection capability, to assist those Federal and non-Federal entities in detecting cybersecurity risks and incidents;

“(H) assist Federal and non-Federal entities in developing policies and procedures for coordinating vulnerability disclosures, to the extent practicable, consistent with international and national standards in the information technology industry;

“(I) ensure that Federal and non-Federal entities, as appropriate, are made aware of the tools, products, resources, policies, guidelines, controls, and procedures on information security developed by the Department and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies for ensuring the security and resiliency of civilian information systems; and

“(J) promote cybersecurity education and awareness through engagements with Federal and non-Federal entities.

“(O) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the status of cybersecurity measures that are in place, and any gaps that exist, in each State and in the largest urban areas of the United States.”

The bill (S. 1846), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REAFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GENERAL SECURITY OF MILITARY INFORMATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND JAPAN

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 435.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 435) reaffirming the importance of the General Security of Military Information Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 435) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 510 through 517 and all nominations on the Secretary’s desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Foreign Service, and Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Patrick R. Michaelis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen Daniel L. Karbler

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephanie A. Purgerson

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Leslie A. Beavers
 Col. Robert M. Blake
 Col. Melissa A. Coburn
 Col. Vanessa J. Dornhoefer
 Col. Lynnette J. Hebert
 Col. Jeffrey F. Hill
 Col. Traci L. KuekerMurphy
 Col. Preston F. McFarren
 Col. William D. Murphy
 Col. Dana N. Nelson
 Col. Robert P. Palmer
 Col. David A. Piffarero
 Col. Mitchell D. Richardson
 Col. William A. Rock
 Col. Mark V. Slominski
 Col. Max J. Stitzer
 Col. Robert W. VanHoy, II
 Col. Adrian K. White

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Lee Ann T. Bennett
 Brig. Gen. Jay S. Goldstein
 Brig. Gen. Jeffrey S. Hinrichs
 Brig. Gen. Bret C. Larson
 Brig. Gen. Bryan P. Radloff
 Brig. Gen. Scott A. Sauter

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Darrin D. Lambrigger

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John C. Boyd

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Damon N. Cluck

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1115 AIR FORCE nominations
 (10) beginning JEFFREY J. AUTREY, and ending JENNIFER T. VECCHIONE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2019.

PN1269 AIR FORCE nominations
 (127) beginning THOMAS JASON ABELL, and ending LAWRENCE NAHNO YAZZIE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

PN1270 AIR FORCE nomination of Joshua B. Stierwalt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

PN1205 ARMY nomination of Michael W. Torre, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1206 ARMY nomination of Austin C. Vann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1257 ARMY nomination of Michael J. Blanton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1258 ARMY nomination of Laina G. Cafego, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1259 ARMY nomination of Lyle E. Bushong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1261 ARMY nomination of Garth E. Coke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1264 ARMY nomination of Brent R. Robertson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1271 ARMY nomination of Gerald J. Hall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

PN1272 ARMY nomination of Nicole L. Kruse, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

IN THE COAST GUARD

* PN1226 COAST GUARD nominations (5) beginning JOSEPH D. BROWN, and ending MARIETT C. OGG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN606—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (15) beginning Derrick Scott Brown, and ending V. Kate Somvongsiri, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2019.

PN788—2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Jay P. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1274 MARINE CORPS nomination of Emma R. Shinn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

PN1275 MARINE CORPS nomination of Ryan J. Nowlin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

IN THE NAVY

PN1265 NAVY nomination of John N. Amiral, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1273 NAVY nomination of Thomas Q. Gallagher, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2019.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 485, 537, and 539.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Robert Anthony Dixon, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of four years; Thomas Michael O'Connor, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years; and Ralph Ignatius Sozio, of New York, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations, en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dixon, O'Connor, and Sozio nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 420.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motion be in order; and that any statement relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Simermeyer nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 482, 483, and 484.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Joshua A. Deahl, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years; Deborah J. Israel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; and Andrea L. Hertzfeld, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations, en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Deahl, Israel, and Hertzfeld nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 129.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lowry nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 456, 493, and 495.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of John E. Kramer, of Florida, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation; Ian Paul Steff, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service; and Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2024.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc, with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kramer, Steff, and Bentzel nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 22, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, November 26, at 7 a.m.; Friday, November 29, at 9:30 a.m. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 29, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 2, and that following the 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 Brouillette nomination, with the postcloture time on the nomination expiring at 5:30 p.m.; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen following disposition of the Brouillette nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. FISCHER. 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 5:07 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

JASON MYUNG-LK CHUNG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK,

WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE SWATI A. DANDEKAR.

THE JUDICIARY

ANDREW LYNN BRASHER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE EDWARD E. CARNES, RETIRING.

JOHN W. HOLCOMB, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE DEAN D. FERGUSON, RETIRED.

KNUT SVENBJORN JOHNSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE JOHN A. HOUSTON, RETIRED.

STEVE KIM, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE BEVERLY REID O'CONNELL, DECEASED.

JOSHUA M. KINDRED, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA, VICE RALPH R. BEISTLINE, RETIRED.

MICHELLE M. PETTIT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE MICHAEL M. ANELLO, RETIRED.

TODD WALLACE ROBINSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE MARILYN L. HUFF, RETIRED.

JENNIFER P. TOGLIATTI, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE JAMES C. MAHAN, RETIRED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

ALAN TURLEY, OF CONNECTICUT

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

HEATHER BYRNES, OF ALASKA

BRENT OMDAHL, OF GEORGIA

SCOTT POZIL, OF WASHINGTON

ERIC WOLFF, OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SCOTT L. ANDERSON, OF TEXAS

CAREYLOU S. ARUN, OF MARYLAND

JEFFREY P. CADY, OF FLORIDA

SANTIGO DAVILA, OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERT D. GAINES, OF ARIZONA

BRYAN J. GOLDFINGER, OF CALIFORNIA

JOHN G. HABERSTOCK, OF NEW JERSEY

FREDERICK J. HELFRICH, OF PENNSYLVANIA

MELISSA A. HILL, OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL IMBROGNA, OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANTONIOS LOULOUAKIS, OF VIRGINIA

MICHAEL A. MARANGELLI, OF CALIFORNIA

HEATHER S. MCLEOD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

KOLBJORN T. NELSON, OF MINNESOTA

SEPH OPPENHEIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RICHARD A. PEARSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS

CRAIG R. PHILDIUS, OF FLORIDA

DANIEL T. PINT, OF NEW YORK

IRWIN H. ROBERTS, OF NORTH CAROLINA

ADAM S. ROTH, OF NEW JERSEY

JENNIFER A. SHORE, OF FLORIDA

LEANN C. TAGWERKER, OF FLORIDA

WILLIAM J. TROERPE, OF ALABAMA

STEPHEN WILCOX, OF PENNSYLVANIA

CHRISTOPHER W. WILKEN, OF WEST VIRGINIA

DUNCAN F. WILLSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CHRISTOPHER JB. WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CONRAD WP. WONG, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

MICHAEL LALLY, OF VIRGINIA

DALE TASHARSKI, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

GUNTER E. SCHWABE, OF NORTH CAROLINA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 21, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JOHN LOWRY III, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

E. SEQUOYAH SIMERMAYER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOHN E. KRAMER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

THE JUDICIARY

JOSHUA A. DEAHL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEBORAH J. ISRAEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ANDREA L. HERTZFELD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT ANTHONY DIXON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

IAN PAUL STEFF, OF INDIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

CARL WHITNEY BENTZEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. PATRICK R. MICHAELIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DANIEL L. KARBLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHANIE A. PURGERSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. LESLIE A. BEAVERS

COL. ROBERT M. BLAKE

COL. MELISSA A. COBURN

COL. VANESSA J. DORNHOEFER

COL. LYNNETTE J. HEBERT

COL. JEFFREY F. HILL

COL. TRACI L. KUEKERMURPHY

COL. PRESTON P. MCFARREN

COL. WILLIAM D. MURPHY

COL. DANA N. NELSON

COL. ROBERT P. PALMER

COL. DAVID A. PIFFARERIO

COL. MITCHELL D. RICHARDSON

COL. WILLIAM A. ROCK

COL. MARK V. SLOMINSKI

COL. MAX J. STITZER

COL. ROBERT W. VANHOY II

COL. ADRIAN K. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LEE ANN T. BENNETT

BRIG. GEN. JAY S. GOLDSTEIN

BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY S. HINRICHS

BRIG. GEN. BRET C. LARSON

BRIG. GEN. BRYAN P. RADLIFF

BRIG. GEN. SCOTT A. SAUTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DARRIN D. LAMBRIGGER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN C. BOYD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAMON N. CLUCK

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

THOMAS MICHAEL O'CONNOR, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RALPH IGNATIUS SOZIO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY J. AUTREY AND ENDING WITH JENNIFER T. VECCHIONE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS JASON ABELL AND ENDING WITH LAWRENCE NAHNO YAZZIE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOSHUA B. STIERWALT, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL W. TORRE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AUSTIN C. VANN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. BLANTON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LAINA G. CAPEGO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LYLE E. BUSHONG, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GARTH E. COKE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRENT R. ROBERTSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GERALD J. HALL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICOLE L. KRUSE, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF EMMA R. SHINN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF RYAN J. NOWLIN, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN N. AMIRAL, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF THOMAS Q. GALLAGHER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH D. BROWN AND ENDING WITH MARIETT C. OGG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DERRICK SCOTT BROWN AND ENDING WITH V. KATE SOMVONGSIRI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF JAY P. WILLIAMS.