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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 2020, at 10 a.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Master, You are our strength and song. We find sustenance in Your might and joy in Your creation. We praise You for the beauty of the Earth and the glories of the Heavens that bring blessings to our earthly pilgrimage.

Today, guide our lawmakers with Your glorious wisdom and the greatness of Your majesty. Fulfill Your purposes for their lives as You order their steps. Show them such unflinching love that they will walk before You in wholehearted devotion.

Lord, place Your healing hands upon our Nation and world, delivering us from this global health crisis.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

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

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

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, my Iowa offices are located in Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Sioux City, and Waterloo. My State staff serves as my eyes and ears in communities from one side of the State to the other. From the Mississippi to the Missouri Rivers, my staff has their fingers on the pulse of Iowans, and this pandemic is no exception. They are working tirelessly to troubleshoot problems Iowans are facing related to the public health emergency and the economic fallout. No matter the concern, the problem, or circumstance that is affecting a farm, a business, school, or local hospital, my staff is on the ground ready to help.

In the early weeks of the pandemic, they helped troubleshoot issues for Iowans who were overseas to get them back home to the United States. One example: In Peru, several young people were stranded and wanted to come home. They didn't get them home very fast, but they are home now.

Since Congress passed the CARES Act, my staff has answered countless questions from Iowans about the Paycheck Protection Program, economic injury disaster loans, and economic impact payments. Whatever the question or redtape may be, my staff goes the extra mile to serve Iowans. They do whatever it takes to track down an answer and help make government work for the people as the government should work for the people.

As always, they are in the trenches during this pandemic, working to help Iowans get through this and get through it together.

I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—VETO—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the veto message on S.J. Res. 68, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message, a joint resolution (S.J. Res. 68) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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



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## CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the United States is battling the worst pandemic in 100 years. Our Nation has poured unprecedented resources into defending Americans' health and blunting the damage to our economy.

The Senate will continue to work on this front. We will find more ways to keep strengthening our healthcare response and pivot the Nation toward recovery. That will include strong legal protections to defend healthcare workers, small businesses, and other institutions against the trial lawyer feeding frenzy as they work hard to keep serving their neighbors.

## FISA

But, Madam President, amid the pandemic, we cannot lose sight of the other threats we still face as well. The challenges that we faced before COVID-19 began to spread from Wuhan, China, are still with us today, alongside this awful virus. There are terror cells, hostile foreign intelligence services, and adversaries all over the world who would love nothing more than for the United States to apply social distancing to our presence on the world stage as well.

Iran has not let popular unrest, a mismanaged economy, or COVID-19 slow their meddling, from Yemen to the Mediterranean. Tehran and its proxies are undermining the sovereignty of Iraq and Lebanon, aiding and abetting Assad's mass murder in Syria, sowing regional unrest, threatening Israel, and targeting American troops and our interests.

A regime that chooses to spend its scant resources on exporting violence or a so-called space program does not need relief from sanctions. We must maintain the measure of deterrence we restored with the decisive strike on Soleimani. That starts today with upholding the President's rightful veto of a misguided War Powers Resolution.

Meanwhile, in apparent repudiation of the Trump administration's efforts to help end the civil war in Afghanistan, Taliban attacks against the country's government and its people have actually spiked. ISIS, al-Qaida, and Haqqani terrorists continue to operate from Afghan territory.

Over in Moscow, Putin's regime continues to threaten American interests along with international security—from bullying incursions in the free states it used to rule, to influence-peddling and mercenary adventurism in the power vacuums of Syria and Libya, to spreading disinformation and undermining democracies all across the globe.

Russian intelligence is not alone in targeting America. China's efforts to steal government industry secrets are unmatched.

Countering these kinds of hostile activities is a key job of our intelligence community, and so is stopping terrorist attacks against our homeland.

So next week, the Senate will turn back to reauthorizing the critical au-

thorities in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The House-passed legislation we will take up is not a blanket reauthorization of FISA; it is a careful update designed to provide greater accountability for the way these authorities are exercised. It will increase transparency in the FISA process and respond to the shameful abuses of 2016 while preserving the toolbox that professionals use to defend us. I hope the Senate will pass it next week, free of amendments that would jeopardize important tools to keep America safe.

## CHINA

Madam President, there is the matter of the People's Republic of China. This coronavirus pandemic originated in China. Whether the virus escaped from a lab or was transmitted at a so-called wet market, we do not yet know for sure, but China's Communist Party leaders probably do know, and they owe it to all the nations suffering from this virus to be truthful and to be transparent. The world deserves the facts—all of the facts.

Here is one fact we do know: The virus spread was exacerbated by China's unconscionable efforts to cover it up. The Communist Party reprimanded and threatened to jail Dr. Li Wenliang, the heroic whistleblower who tried to warn the world about COVID-19 and later died from it. Within hours of his death, by the way, a wave of outrage over CCP's treatment of Dr. Li spread over Chinese social media until the government censored that as well.

At the peak of the outbreak, the Chinese Communist Party was reportedly welding its own people inside their own houses. And today, you better believe the party commissars are training their sights on the Chinese survivors, activists, and lawyers who dare to seek the truth.

Outside the borders, China's leaders seem to think they could either charm, cajole, or threaten the world into submission. They supposedly donated medical supplies to foreign countries that quickly proved faulty and unusable. They threatened to boycott Australian beef. They even threatened to cut off pharmaceutical exports to the United States so that we would be "plunged into the mighty sea of coronavirus."

It is galling but not surprising. This is the same authoritarian regime that brutalized the Uighur people in modern-day gulags and that has spent years cheating its way through international commerce and stealing industrial secrets.

Now it is exploiting the global pandemic it helped exacerbate to further its crackdown on Hong Kong. A few weeks ago, the government arrested peaceful democracy activists, including my old friend of almost three decades, Martin Lee. I suppose they thought the rest of the world might be too distracted to notice. They were mistaken.

Alongside our friends and partners around the world, the United States is going to be asking tough questions

about our relationship with the Chinese Communist Party.

I expect the Senate will soon look to pass Senator RUBIO's Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, a bipartisan bill that will bring more attention to the plight of this mistreated minority and urge the President to use targeted sanctions against those responsible for the repression.

While we and our allies already saw the risks from letting critical supply chains become too dependent on China, the Chinese Communist Party's recent behavior has certainly hammered this home. I am confident that we here in Washington will be examining these strategic vulnerabilities as well.

We will be looking for the best ways to strengthen our dynamic and innovative private sector, keep America on the cutting edge, and work closely with friends who share our values and interests to build a fairer, more resilient international market.

Notice that China is not retrenching or drawing back within its borders—quite the opposite.

So if we want to preserve a world built on our democratic values and principles, if we want to protect American workers, American interests, and American national security, all of these things will take more global leadership and more coordination with our allies, not less.

Tomorrow, May 8, is the 75th anniversary of VE Day. If we ever needed a reminder that American strength is a force for good in the world, there it is. Thanks to the tireless work of our colleague, Senator PAT ROBERTS, tomorrow was meant to be the dedication of the new Eisenhower Memorial. It has been postponed due to the virus. It almost seems fitting that 75 years after World War II, the celebration of President Eisenhower would be delayed by a global crisis that will take American strength and American leadership to resolve. He certainly knew something about that kind of situation.

Now, as then, the American people do not want to retreat from the world, and they do not want to see us slide into second place. They want us to be smart and strong and safe, and they want the United States of America to lead.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

## CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tomorrow, the Bureau of Labor will publish its monthly jobs report for April. Some experts are projecting that it could show well over 20 million job losses in the past 4 weeks. The preliminary report today suggests that there

will be over 30 million newly unemployed Americans over the past 7 weeks. That is a tenth—1 out of 10 people—losing their job. A tenth of our population.

We are looking at what seems to be the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Small businesses have shuttered. Some larger businesses have filed for bankruptcy. Millions of workers, through no fault of their own, are being laid off or furloughed or are losing their paychecks. They are worried about keeping their homes, feeding their kids, accessing healthcare.

Once this crisis is over, we can't snap our fingers and have everything return to normal. Twenty to 30 million newly unemployed Americans will not immediately return to their old jobs. Hopefully, many can, but many jobs just will not be there.

The disease has washed over our Nation like a flood. Once the waters have receded, there will be a great deal of damage left in its wake. We need a big, bold answer to this. We need to marshal a broader spirit of action. The American people need an active, engaged, and forceful government to lift them up and carry them through these dark times.

Speaker PELOSI and I are working on a big, bold plan that will deal with the magnitude of the problem.

So I am appalled today that Republican congressional leaders and President Trump are saying that we should delay more assistance to the American people.

A week ago, the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, said that we need "to push the pause button."

Tell that to someone who is losing his job. Tell that to someone who has worked so hard to create a small business over decades and sees it falling apart. Tell that to the family who has a member that is sick with COVID or something else and can't get adequate healthcare.

To say that we should wait and see what is happening, as Leader MCCONNELL has said, that maybe we don't need to do anything more is ignoring what is going on around us.

Over 30 million are unemployed, and certain Republican leaders are saying: Let's hit the pause button on future government support.

The Republican leader of this Chamber called us back into session, despite the obvious health risks, not to consider new relief or respond to the COVID pandemic but to process nominations. He has been coming to the floor, drawing redlines in the sand, pledging not to support another emergency relief bill unless it extends legal immunity to big corporations.

Today, he gave a very long speech on national security. Now, that is very important, but the No. 1 immediate crisis facing us is COVID, and this speech was sort of a metaphor for what Senate Republicans are doing this week on COVID—virtually nothing.

Senator CARDIN and I and Senator SHAHEEN went to the floor and simply

asked for a simple bill to pass that would require accountability in PPP, and it was blocked by the majority. So this is just amazing.

There has been large support in Congress to stabilize the big financial markets, support larger industries, and keep capital markets from crashing. There will be \$4 trillion available when the Fed and Treasury are through with it. We must do the same, if not more, for average people—workers, families. The contrast is glaring. The contrast is glaring.

Larger companies know they have a floor. The big markets know they have a floor. An unemployed worker has no floor until we do things for them like we did for pandemic unemployment insurance.

There are many more people, average Americans, who need the same kind of help or a greater degree of help, or a different kind of help, and many of these average folks are in worse shape.

Democrats have strived to make as much of our congressional relief effort flow to workers and average American families—as much as possible. It is still not enough. State and local governments—that means teachers, firefighters, police officers, and busdrivers who might be laid off—still need help. Our essential workers deserve hazard pay. Minority-owned and women-owned businesses still need more access to lending. Renters and homeowners need relief. And millions of working people need enhanced nutrition benefits, as thousands and thousands of people are overwhelming our local food banks.

But now that assistance to big industries has gone out the door, Republican leaders are saying: Let's wait and see.

The unemployed worker doesn't want to wait and see. The small business that might go under doesn't want to wait and see. The mom or dad who needs to feed their hungry children does not want to wait and see, like our Republican leaders seem to. Now is not the time to wait and see. Now is the time to move forward.

Our history is replete with examples of what happens when the Federal Government doesn't rise to the occasion in a time of national emergency. In the early days of the Great Depression, President Herbert Hoover was reluctant to use national resources to combat a national crisis. His failure to act contributed to the length and severity of the depression.

If our Republican colleagues, if President Trump, respond with the same timidity as President Hoover did, I fear the Nation could suffer the same consequences as it did in the past, and many economists agree. If we do nothing more, like some of our Republican colleagues seem to feel we should, a good number of economists believe we will have our second Great Depression—Herbert Hoover redux on the Republican side when President Trump, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader MCCARTHY say: Let's wait and see.

Republicans weren't worried about the deficit when we spent billions to

keep big businesses from folding, but all of a sudden they are worried about it when we are talking about families keeping the roofs over their heads and putting food on the table. We need a fourth congressional relief bill that mirrors the size and ambition of our previous relief efforts. Working people and truly small businesses are taking the blunt effects of this crisis on the chin, and we cannot—cannot—and must not leave them behind.

Now, there are plenty of things the Federal Government can do in the interim, even before another round of legislation in Congress. I want to mention one idea this morning. There are many more.

Several big, publicly traded companies that have received small business loans have started sheepishly returning the money to the Treasury Department—rightly so. Many have much greater access to other capital than true small businesses, and they shouldn't crowd out the lending of those small businesses that truly need it. Secretary Mnuchin has told me that roughly \$10 billion in loans have been paid off or returned by these large companies. Ten billion dollars happens to be the same amount we have asked the Treasury Department to set aside exclusively for lending by community development financial institutions and minority deposit institutions.

So this morning I would like to urge the Treasury Department to immediately set aside the money being returned by big, publicly traded companies in the PPP for loans to businesses that are truly small—the very small businesses with under 10 employees and other underserved, rural, minority-owned and women-owned businesses. Too many big companies rushed in to secure small business lending in the early days of the PPP program, while smaller businesses were shut out. The administration should have been far more careful about who got the lending and put out much stronger guidance to the banks in the early days, something I believe they are trying to correct now.

We can begin to right those disparities if Treasury would simply redirect—redirect—the returned loans to truly small and underserved businesses using community-based lenders. I hope Secretary Mnuchin will agree to this.

Another issue that cannot wait for another bill, of course, is testing. Testing is the key to finally defeating this disease, and it is the key to safely reopening the country.

President Trump promised on March 6—his words: "Anybody that wants a test can get a test." That was President Trump 2 months ago. It is still not even close to being true. President Trump seems to think that by saying something, it happens. By saying it is a hoax, he thinks it was a hoax. By saying it is going to go away, he thinks it would go away. This COVID virus does not listen to President Trump's cheery and false words, unfortunately.

President Trump, when it comes to testing, what is the plan? Where are the tests?

Countries like South Korea and Germany, New Zealand and Australia were able to flatten the curve much more quickly than we have by rigorously testing their populations, contact tracing, and isolating confirmed cases.

But as the coronavirus spread initially, unfortunately, the United States lagged far behind these other countries. Some experts believe we need to have at least 2 million tests a day. Today we are testing less than 300,000.

For the administration to pressure States and businesses to reopen without a plan for a dramatic increase in testing is like sending them out of the door with a blindfold on. It is dangerous.

Congress has required the administration to produce a national strategy on testing by May 24. Instead of wasting energy praising his own performance and lashing out at supposed enemies, the President should roll up his sleeves and get to work on testing. The patience of the American people is wearing very, very thin.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we live in a dangerous world, and this morning we were reminded as the Republican leader came to the floor and spoke about foreign policy. Later on today, we will address the issue of a veto override on the War Powers Act, a measure which I cosponsored.

It may surprise some people that we are in the area of foreign policy on our Senate agenda this week, because in this dangerous world that we live in, we all know that the first thing we look for is the danger at the doorstep.

Our danger, of course, is a national emergency, as President Trump has characterized it, a public health crisis—the COVID-19 coronavirus threat to the United States and all of our families.

Many of us who came back to Washington this week were wary because we had been warned to stay in our homes as long as possible, to stay out of circulation, and not to gather in workplaces unless absolutely necessary. All of us thought if we were going to return, we hoped the priority would be this looming crisis in America, this public health crisis. But, sadly, as we bring this week's legislative activity to a close, little, if anything, has been said or done on the Senate floor or in committee to address the issue at the moment.

What are we going to do to protect Americans and their families?

Senator MCCONNELL brought us back for a hearing for one of his favorite judges—a Federal judge in Kentucky, a young man who was an intern in his office and whom he is now trying to promote to the second highest court in the land.

In the ordinary course of Senate business, this would not be unusual. It might have drawn some attention because of the qualifications of this individual, but attention has been given to it as people compare it to the real issues that we should be facing.

When you think about the issues before us, one of them is very imminent. Across the street from the U.S. Senate is the Supreme Court building. Pending before the Supreme Court at this moment is a lawsuit brought by President Trump and Republican attorneys general from across the United States to abolish the Affordable Care Act—to abolish an Affordable Care Act that provides health insurance for 20 million Americans and also provides protections in the health insurance policies for another 135 million Americans—a law which basically says if you have a preexisting condition, you can't be denied insurance coverage.

At this moment in our history, at this moment as we face this health crisis, it is unimaginable that the Republican position is to eliminate health insurance protection for 20 million Americans and to lessen the protections in health insurance policies for 135 million more. So far, 1.2 million Americans have been diagnosed as infected with the COVID-19 virus. Sadly, some 70,000 Americans have died. What is going to happen in the days and months and years ahead if the Republicans have their way and if preexisting conditions return to health insurance? Will there be a day when you or your spouse or your parent or your children will be asked if you were ever diagnosed positive for COVID-19? Will this be a disqualification in the future if we don't have the protection when it comes to preexisting conditions? That is not out of the realm of possibility.

How can the Republicans be thinking that this is the right moment in history to abolish the Affordable Care Act and the health insurance that 20 million Americans count on and 135 million Americans who have their own health insurance plans take advantage of? It is exactly the wrong moment.

There was an effort to abolish this Affordable Care Act—they like to call it ObamaCare—on the floor of the Senate in the last 2 years. I still remember the moment when Senator John McCain, the late Senator from Arizona, came to the floor in the early morning hours and gave the motion for a “no” vote, and that was the end of the story. The Republican abolition effort ended with that vote. You would think they learned their lesson.

Senator McCain and other Republicans said: We cannot eliminate this

unless we have something better to replace it with.

They didn't then. They don't now.

Attorney General Barr warned the Trump White House not to go forward with this lawsuit pending in the Supreme Court. He understood that it was unwise not only from a policy viewpoint, but it was unwise politically.

Imagine, if you will, in the weeks and months ahead, should this Court, this Roberts Court, decide to abolish the Affordable Care Act in the midst of this public health crisis—I can't think of anything more catastrophic when it comes to these 20 million families and their health insurance protection and the 100 million-plus who count on this protection against discrimination for preexisting conditions.

That is the reality we face, but it is not the only reality. A decision was made this week that is almost impossible to understand. There was a telephone conference call involving leaders from all around the world. These leaders came together to discuss something that we are all praying for—the discovery of a vaccine that will protect us from this coronavirus. They wanted money pledged, some \$8 billion. Norway pledged \$1 billion. The European Union pledged \$1 billion. When they went around the table, there was a chair that was empty. The United States of America wasn't at the conference. The President made a conscious decision that we would not engage in this conversation about the discovery of a lifesaving vaccine. Why? What was he possibly thinking?

This notion of America first, which we hear over and over again, has some value, of course, but when it comes to a global pandemic, when it comes to a global challenge, when it comes to the fact that over 90 countries around the world are searching for that vaccine, when it comes to the fact that most of us don't really care where it is found as long as it is found and the sooner the better and that we have access to it for Americans as well as everyone else—that is the bottom line. It isn't about America being first and only when it comes to the vaccine. Even the Senate Republican leader said this morning that we can't retreat from the world.

It is so appropriate to have this global vaccine conference. Two Americans were involved in this conference—in this virtual conference call—Bill and Melinda Gates. We know his background, his great success at Microsoft, and his commitment, with his wife, ever since to global health issues. They were at the table speaking for the United States, and I want to personally thank them for being there, but we should have been there as well. The President of the United States should have been on that conference call. He should have said: The United States is going to help find this vaccine wherever it is found in the world. We are going to be at the table when we talk about producing it in quantities that will make a difference for people living

everywhere in the world, including the United States, and we are going to be here as well when we apportion those vaccine doses so we make certain that Americans have their fair share and that we can protect our own country.

Do you want to reopen the economy, Mr. President? Do you want to liberate America from the CDC suggestion that we shelter in place? Do you want to liberate us truly? Then join in this conference and this conversation among leaders across the world to find this vaccine.

I hope we can find it in the United States. We have a lot of talented people searching, but if another country finds it, let's applaud that. If it is an effective and safe vaccine that protects us, let's applaud whatever country finds it—including the United States, of course, but if it is found in another country, we are not going to be part of the conversation as long as this President folds his arms, juts out his chin, and says: I am sorry, the WHO—the World Health Organization—is at the table, and we want no part of them, so we are staying away.

Pride cometh before the fall, Mr. President. You can't expect the American people to fall with you because of your own source of pride. We should deal with the reality of what we face in this world.

Let me say a word about the State and local governments because as we consider the next round of legislation to help this economy, we certainly want to make certain that unemployment insurance will be available for the millions of Americans—over 30 million Americans who are unemployed. The current round of unemployment insurance is set to expire around July 31. We want to make certain that small businesses that are receiving forgivable loans so they can be poised and ready to reopen and go into business, put people back to work—that is supposed to end around the end of June. I pray that this whole controversy and this crisis will be behind us by then, but we know better. We know it will take some time to get the economy back in gear. Let's make sure that we renew our commitment to the people in this country, the families in this country, the unemployed in this country, and the small business owners as well.

But don't forget the others who are counting on us. Don't forget our first responders. How often have we stood up and responded and praised police, firefighters, paramedics, medical professionals, and nurses who stepped up in the midst of this crisis and showed extraordinary courage, some giving their lives in the process? Well, part of their future depends on us in the next bill. Are we going to stand up to make sure that State and local governments, which have been hard hit by this crisis as well when it comes to their own revenue, will get a helping hand? God forbid we reach a point where, because of the shortcomings in the State and local revenue, we have to lay off police,

firefighters, healthcare workers, and teachers. Is that what we want to do in this moment?

A few weeks ago, when he was asked, Senator MCCONNELL said we should consider bankruptcy—bankruptcy for State and local governments that can't pay their bills. What a disaster that would be. You want to see America cartwheeled into a recession leading to a depression? Bankruptcies from one end of America to the other by State and local governments would do just that, and the damage it would do to first responders who would be laid off as a result of it, the police and the firefighters and the teachers, is incalculable. We can't let that happen to America.

A bankrupt America is an America headed for a depression, and when Senator MCCONNELL suggested that, I thought to myself, he hasn't thought this through. He cannot be saying that to the teachers of Kentucky and the police and the firefighters and the medical professionals who count so much on our support.

At this point, there are things we can do and must do. My checklist would include hazard pay for those I mentioned, including the healthcare workers, and most importantly, a dramatic increase in testing. We have about one-third of the test kits we need to put America back to work.

We look at situations like the ones facing us in meat-processing facilities. It has created a real hardship on consumers across America. But don't forget the producers of livestock in South Dakota and Illinois and Tennessee. They are producing pork and beef to be headed to the processing plants, and the plants are closed down. It is a downturn in demand for sure but also working conditions, which need to be addressed directly so there is safety in the workplace for all American workers.

When the Senate Republican leader comes to the floor and talks about how we don't want anybody held responsible or liable for their conduct or misconduct during the course of this, I think he is not thinking through clearly what he is talking about. In this situation, you certainly wouldn't want to deny to nurses, who were seeking protection with protective equipment—masks, gloves, and gowns—you wouldn't want to deny them a day in court, if necessary. You wouldn't want to say to workers who were in dangerous situations in the workplace that they can't collect workers' compensation even if they are injured or sick. But when I hear the Republican leader talk about COVID-19 lawsuits—both the lawsuits I just described relate to COVID-19, and both call for simple fairness when it comes to protecting workers and families over large corporations.

The Senate leader has come to the floor so many times and said that the real enemy here are the lawyers of America. Really? At this moment in

history, that is the fight we want to pick? It is time for us to come together, not to make something like that a redline against continued bipartisan cooperation.

I stand here today in the hopes that we will come back to session—if we do next week—to truly address the COVID-19 crisis. We have wasted a week here when it comes to that crisis. We could be doing so much more.

I hope the Senate Republican leader, who sets the agenda for the Senate, will go home to Kentucky, and as he goes home to Kentucky and talks to the families there—and I will in Illinois—we will both come back with the realization that the No. 1 priority in this dangerous world is the danger at our doorstep. Let's get this under control and protect the families and individuals across America so that we can resume the path to greatness this country has been on since the beginning.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, a number of our Democratic colleagues have come to the floor and spoken here and elsewhere about the importance of providing assistance to State and local governments and that if that doesn't happen, there are going to be police officers and first responders and people who have essential jobs that we rely on every single day and for whom we are so grateful who wouldn't be able to get paid.

I would just point out that already, as part of the coronavirus relief measures that Congress has passed, there was \$150 billion sent to State and local governments, much of which has yet to be spent and, frankly, much of which we don't know what the actual need is out there until we have a better sense of what the revenue loss is to a lot of our State and local governments.

Clearly, they are sounding the alarm, and they are justifiably worried about what happens if the downturn in the economy continues and what that might mean to their revenues. They are looking to Washington, DC, for assistance.

I think that, as I said earlier, in the CARES package, there was \$150 billion that went out to State and local governments. There have been concerns about how those funds can be used. It was stipulated that they had to be used for COVID-related expenses, and many State and local leaders were concerned that that did not give them the flexibility that they needed to meet other types of needs.

Well, the Treasury Department has in the past few days come out with an interpretation that would allow those dollars—the \$150 billion already appropriated—to be used to pay firefighters, to pay police, to pay first responders, to help with unemployment insurance accounts at the State level, to help with healthcare costs—the people who lose healthcare at the State level—and

a range of other things. It dramatically broadened the eligibility of uses for the dollars that have already been allocated to State and local governments.

So I think it is important for us to make sure—as we look at any additional assistance that we might provide, to determine how well the dollars that are already out there have been used and to, in fact, see what the actual needs are before we add to that.

We had a number of pronouncements around here. The Speaker of the House, Speaker PELOSI, has come out and said: We need \$1 trillion in additional assistance for State and local governments. It is hard for me to see how you can make a statement like that not knowing what the original \$150 billion has been used for or whether it has been used at all in some cases.

The fact that we have \$150 billion in the pipeline, the eligibility and uses of which have been dramatically broadened by the Treasury Department to enable States to use it for the very things that many of the Democrats are coming down here saying: You know, if we don't help State and local governments, we won't pay essential workers—that just flat out isn't true. Those dollars can be used for that purpose.

It makes sense for us, as policy-makers and custodians and stewards of the people's tax dollars, to ensure that the tax dollars we have already put out there are having the desired effect and to figure out what is working and what is not working and to figure out, frankly, what the actual need is before we send more money out—and, by the way, more money that is all borrowed. Every dollar of the \$2.8 trillion that we have already distributed—and all for good reasons. Everybody here was supportive and agreed we needed to do it. We needed a dramatic, bold response to an extraordinary circumstance, so that was done. But every one of those dollars was borrowed. Any dollar we put out going forward will be borrowed, which means that at some point somebody has to pay for it, and it is going to be our children and our grandchildren.

There is an argument being made that, well, interest rates are low; this is a good time to borrow. Well, you want to borrow when interest rates are low if you have to borrow, but if we continue to borrow, there is a point at which interest rates, just by virtue of the laws of supply and demand, will start to go up, and when they do, you will see a dramatic increase in the amount of dollars we have to use here just to pay the interest on the debt, which, if interest rates ever normalize, will be north of about \$1 trillion a year and represent literally about 28 percent of all Federal spending.

So, point 1, every dollar we spend is a borrowed dollar. Point 2, I think it is important for us to see what the needs are to be able to put money out there. Point 3, there is already \$150 billion in the pipeline to State and local governments to help with many of the things

the Democrats have been complaining about. And Point 4, it seems to me, at least, that we ought to have a discussion about whether what we have done already is working before we decide to add to it and see if we are getting a good return on the tax dollars that have already been put out there.

I don't think there is any resistance here to giving States more flexibility with those dollars. I don't think there is any resistance to doing anything and everything we have to to make sure we get through this crisis. I think our Members certainly agree with that and are prepared to make the necessary votes and to do what is necessary to get us through it.

Remember also that there is no amount of money in Washington, DC, that can substitute for a dynamic, vibrant, active economy where jobs are being created and investments are being made. That is how you ultimately start to get things back on track in this country.

So, as we get ahead of the health emergency—and, of course, obviously this week we celebrate nurses week. I am so grateful for the many contributions they are making not only during the pandemic but year-round and the people who are on the frontlines of this emergency. To ensure that we are doing everything we can to support them, to beat this health emergency—when we do, as the economy starts to open up, that is when we will see the jobs come back, that is when we will see the growth come back, and that is when we will see the standard of living and the quality of life in this country that people have lost in the last few months start to return. That is the best way to get things back on track here.

I want to just make some comments this morning about another area of our economy and note that it has been an incredibly tough couple of months for American businesses and American workers.

Virtually every sector of our economy is suffering as a result of the coronavirus, and the ag industry is no exception. Farmers and ranchers have taken a huge hit. The coronavirus has caused significant market volatility, sending many commodity futures prices plummeting. Meanwhile, reduced capacity at U.S. meatpacking plants as a result of the virus has diminished the demand for livestock, depressing prices. This has aggravated an already difficult situation for farmers and ranchers.

Unlike the majority of the economy, which was thriving before the pandemic, the agricultural economy has been struggling now for a while. Low prices, extended trade disputes, and natural disasters have made a tough few years for farmers and ranchers even before the coronavirus hit. Now they are suffering even more.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of my State of South Dakota. So when Congress was considering coronavirus re-

lief legislation, support for farmers and ranchers was one of my top priorities. I fought to get agricultural relief money included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or the CARES Act, which was signed into law in late March. The final bill included \$14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation to allow the Department of Agriculture to provide income and price support for farmers and ranchers, plus an additional \$9.5 billion in emergency support for agricultural producers affected by the pandemic.

Days after the bill passed, I led a bipartisan group of Senators and representatives in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, urging him to use a portion of the funds to provide support for hard-hit cattle producers. I am pleased that in mid-April the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it would issue \$16 billion worth of payments to ag producers affected by the virus. Those payments are expected to reach farmers and ranchers in late May or early June. I have been monitoring the progress of this relief, and I will continue urging the USDA to issue these payments as soon as possible.

Agriculture producers can also take advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program included in the CARES Act. This program provides forgivable loans to small businesses, including self-employed producers, to help them cover payroll costs during this difficult time. Seventy-five percent of the loans must be used for workers' salaries and benefits, including the salaries of self-employed workers, while the remaining amount can be used for other qualifying expenses, like mortgage interest, rent, and utilities. The loan can be forgiven completely, as long as borrowers follow the requirement that at least 75 percent of the loan be used to cover workers' salaries and benefits and the remainder be spent on other qualifying expenses.

As of this week, farmers and ranchers can now take advantage of the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, thanks to legislation Congress passed 2 weeks ago.

I am continuing to monitor the cattle market. Livestock producers have taken a dramatic hit on the prices they are getting for their cattle. At the same time, however, the price of packaged meat has risen, and meat packers are seeing record profit margins. This raises real concerns about potential instances of price manipulation and other unfair practices within the beef industry, especially considering that four meat packing companies control more than 80 percent of the beef supplied in the United States.

In March, I called Secretary Perdue to urge the Department of Agriculture to take action to ensure the integrity of the cattle market during the coronavirus pandemic. I followed up with a letter requesting that the Agriculture Department's packers and

stockyard division look into the volatility in the cattle market, and Secretary Perdue has agreed to investigate.

I also sent a letter to Attorney General William Barr requesting an investigation into potential price manipulation or other anti-competitive activities in the beef market.

Our pork industry is also struggling due to the coronavirus pandemic. The temporary closure of the Smithfield plant in Sioux Falls created significant challenges for the 550 independent pork producers from South Dakota and surrounding States and for our Nation's food supply system.

In the wake of the Smithfield plant closure announcement, I wrote a letter to Secretary Perdue requesting financial assistance for pork producers, and I have been closely monitoring the situation.

I am pleased that the Smithfield plant is in compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidance and will gradually resume operation starting today.

No discussion of the challenges facing farmers right now would be complete without discussing biofuels. Ethanol and biodiesel producers buy up a significant amount of American corn and soy, which adds value to each bushel. As demand for fuel has decreased as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, ethanol and biodiesel operations have come offline and are no longer buying up their normal amounts of corn and soybean oil. This has significantly diminished a crucial market for our farmers.

There has rightfully been a lot of focus on the oil and gas companies that are facing record loss and demand because of the coronavirus and because of an equally difficult oversupply problem driven by the Saudi-Russian price war. Hard-working Americans at these companies who have helped usher in our modern energy renaissance are now in limbo, and Congress needs to make sure we preserve our energy dominance and security. But it is important to recognize that the ethanol industry, which provides over 10 percent of the Nation's gasoline content—the cleanest 10 percent, I might add—is a part of that.

Biofuels, too, have been a key part of America's energy renaissance and have also been hit hard by the sudden drop in demand, which has been a devastating blow for workers in the industry and for the farmers who supply them. Half—half—of the Nation's capacity has been idle. More than 70 plants have closed, and just as many have idled, directly harming their local economies and, again, drying up that essential market for our farmers.

This has brought a new problem. Many Americans may not know it, but a substantial quantity of food-grade carbon dioxide, the CO<sub>2</sub> used in carbonated beverages or to quickly chill meat products, is an ethanol by-product.

This means that not only is ethanol part of our energy security and a foundation of our ag economy, but it also plays an important role in our food supply.

The coronavirus is already straining our meat processing industry. We should not allow a CO<sub>2</sub> shortage to deepen the problem.

As Congress addresses the numerous challenges facing farmers and energy producers, we must make sure that ethanol relief is a part of that discussion. Whether it is through direct support or by advancing long-stalled corn fiber applications at the Environmental Protection Agency, we need to make sure that this American energy success story survives these challenging times.

As we move forward, I will continue talking to farmers and ranchers about their needs and what we can do to help them get through these difficult times. Supporting our Nation's farmers and ranchers will always be—always be—one of my top priorities here in Congress.

The coronavirus crisis has reminded us all just how much we depend on our agricultural producers, and I am grateful every day for the work they do to feed our Nation.

I will continue to do everything I can to strengthen our agricultural economy and to help our Nation's farmers and ranchers thrive.

I yield the floor.

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

S.J. RES. 68

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to address the debate we are having today over whether to override the President's veto of the Kaine resolution that reminds the President of the United States about the fundamentals of the Constitution, about article I, section 8 of the Constitution, which gives the enumerated powers of Congress and says that Congress, and Congress alone, has the power to declare war.

No decision is tougher or more important than the decision to go to war. That is why the Founding Fathers never intended for a single person to be able to make that decision. They explicitly, after intense debate and consideration, gave that power solely to Congress, the people's branch of our government. They didn't want anyone—any one individual, even the President of the United States—to be able to drag our Nation to war for personal or political reasons or for misjudgments, inadequately vetted with the wisdom of the leaders of the country.

Since President Trump came into office, we have come within a hair's breadth of war with Iran on more than one occasion because of his words and his actions. It is why back in February and March, the Senate and the House debated this resolution, reinstructing the President on the fundamentals of

the Constitution, reminding him that he does not have the power to take us to war in Iran. It instructed him that any hostilities with Iran need to come in accordance with the Constitution.

But the President of the United States has responded to our clear declaration of the essence of the Constitution by tossing it aside, by vetoing that resolution. And so here we are debating whether to override that veto.

The Founding Fathers were adamant about not having anything resembling a King in the new country they were building. The President was given the power to lead the Nation's Armed Forces as Commander in Chief, but article I, section 8 of the Constitution stated: "The Congress shall have Power. . . . To declare war."

If there is any real doubt about the Founders' intent, well, let's return to the comments that they made at the time.

James Madison, father of the Constitution, said this:

The constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war to the legislature.

He continued: "The power to declare war, including the power of judging the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature . . . the executive has no right, in any case, to decide the question, whether there is or not cause for declaring war."

How about George Washington, commander of our forces in the Revolution, first President of the United States, father of our Nation? He said this: "The constitution vests the power of declaring war in Congress; therefore no offensive expedition of importance can be undertaken until after they shall have deliberated upon the subject and authorized such a measure," referring to Congress.

How about George Mason of Virginia? George Mason remarked that he was "against giving the power of war to the executive" because the President "is not safely to be trusted with it."

There is more. How about Thomas Jefferson, one of the most brilliant minds our country has ever produced? He said this: "We have already given in example one effectual check to the dog of war by transferring the power of letting him"—the dog of war—"loose from the Executive to the Legislative body."

And Jefferson didn't just believe that these were important words in the Constitution. When he was President and when he was being pressured over a dispute with Spain over the boundaries of Louisiana and Florida, he wrote to Congress stating: "Considering that Congress alone is constitutionally invested with the power of changing our condition from peace to war, I have thought it my duty to await their authority for using force in any degree."

How about Alexander Hamilton, whom many Americans have been hearing so much about with the play "Hamilton" having been such a hit over the



last few years? What did Hamilton say about this? He said:

“The Congress shall have the power to declare war”; the plain meaning of which is, that it is the peculiar and exclusive duty of Congress . . . to change that state into a state of war.”

Abraham Lincoln was not a Founding Father, but he understood absolutely what the Founders were talking about, and he said this:

The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress was dictated . . . by the following reasons. Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This, our Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions, and they resolved to frame the Constitution [so] that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us.

But we are in a day and age where we have the President who does not respect the words of the Constitution, does not respect the vision of our Founders, does not understand the wisdom that the issue of war and the associated huge toll in blood and huge toll in treasure is absolutely too important a decision to be vested in a single person, that it must be a product—a decision to go to war must be the product—of a considered debate of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. That is why we proceeded to pass the resolution here in February and in March down the hall, because the President has been beating the drums of war since he came to office. He started up by tearing up the Iran nuclear agreement, after the United States had led the world in creating an effective strategy to end the nuclear programs of Iran. He followed it with an economic war against Iran that has inflicted great suffering on the people of that Nation, and, then, so many other escalatory provocations and responses, that without the considered response of Congress to remind him that he does not have the power to go to war, could take us into another Middle East war.

We here in the Senate must not allow that to happen. We saw the consequences of the last Middle East war and the toll of the blood of our sons and daughters and of our national treasure. We saw that toll, and we must not allow a war to occur because of a President who disregards the Constitution of the United States.

The resolution that the Senate and House passed, the Kaine resolution, says:

Congress hereby directs the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces for hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran or any part of its government or military, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific authorization for the use of military force against Iran.

That, by the way, is exactly consistent with the War Powers Resolution, which is the law of the United States of America that notes that the power of the President as Commander

in Chief to involve the United States “in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, are exercised only pursuant to a (1) declaration of war, (2) specific statutory authorization, or (3) a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its Armed Forces.”

That is the law of the United States of America backing up the Constitution of the United States of America, founded on the wisdom of the Founders, as you heard one after another, all conveying that same message.

But what was the President’s response?

The President’s response in his veto message said that the resolution is insulting. Is it insulting to fight for our Constitution to be followed?

No, Mr. President, it is the responsibility of every Member here to fight for the Constitution to be followed, and the most important issue we ever consider on the floor of the Senate is the issue of whether or not we are going to war.

It is not insulting. It is essential—essential—to remind this President that the wisdom of the Constitution stands today as it has for more than 200 years.

The President also cited authorities he has under the 2002 authorization for the use of military force. Well, let’s see what that authorization actually said. It said this:

The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to—

(1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and

(2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.

Now, I know people get confused about Iraq and Iran, but, Mr. President—and I am speaking to the President of the United States—please, get out a map and understand that Iraq is not Iran, that this does not give you authority to go to war against Iran.

The President also cites article II of the Constitution, and he goes on at some length in his veto message saying what limited powers this gives him.

Well, Mr. President—and, again, I am speaking to the President of the United States—that is not what is written in the Constitution. That is not what is embodied in the War Powers Resolution. That is not what our law and international law provide as a basis for going to war—that the President has sole power—and it is absolutely contrary to the complete history and founding of the United States of America, giving the power of war to this body and the House that is down the hall.

In fact, international law and U.S. law refer to issues like force being used as necessary and proportionate, and for the President to be able to act when there is an imminent threat. And the President takes a shot at this in his Trump veto message, referring to the fact that he has powers that go far be-

yond to respond to an imminent attack, under article II of the Constitution. In other words, the President of the United States is saying that his powers are unlimited, as he asserted in so many other arenas—that his powers are unlimited to go to war.

No, Mr. President, they are not, and a bipartisan majority of this Senate has said that. A bipartisan majority of the House has said that. And even if your veto stands and we cannot override it today, it is the Constitution of the United States that says that. And that should be the final point that today, when we vote, let’s vote with the Constitution of the United States. Let’s vote with the Founders, who so explicitly gave that power to this Chamber and the Chamber down the hall. Let’s vote to say that the wisdom that has stood for more than 200 years should be the wisdom that prevails today when we vote to override the veto of the President of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the coronavirus has challenged our country—indeed, the entire planet—like few crises before, certainly in my lifetime. I was part of the post World War II generation. No doubt, world war presented the preeminent crisis within memory. It was, I think, 1917 and 1918 when the Great Influenza hit the planet and tens of millions of people died in that.

When this virus began spreading, it became clear it would place a severe strain on our hospitals and healthcare providers. As businesses closed their doors and employees lost their jobs, it was obvious it would take a toll on the incredible economy we had in this country. It is like it fell off a cliff.

The combination of new stresses brought on by this virus have led to a range of lesser-known but no less severe consequences. Earlier this week, I spoke about the impact the coronavirus is having on our country’s mental health. As our lives have been flipped upside down, many Americans are facing financial struggles, isolation, and anxiety.

For those who have children at home, the challenges are compounded even further. A recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation disclosed that nearly half of Americans polled reported that the coronavirus was having a negative impact on their mental health. That is up from one-third in March, and it is not surprising.

When we talk about the resources that we need to overcome this crisis, the relationship between the coronavirus and America’s mental health cannot be ignored. Beyond the silent impact these stresses are having on individuals, they can quickly lead to violence in relationships. We have learned that, in a time of crisis, the frequency and severity of domestic violence incidents are likely to increase.



Texas experienced the heartbreaking reality of that trend in post Hurricane Harvey, and we are seeing it again now.

Last month, I participated in a virtual roundtable with representatives from the Texas Council on Family Violence, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, and more than a dozen other organizations across my State that support survivors of domestic violence. We discussed these stresses and how they are impacting victims and the barriers that are being created that make it harder for these organizations and people of good will to provide support.

One of these representatives was the CEO of the Houston Area Women's Center, Emily Whitehurst. Houston is the hardest hit area in our State, with about 7,000 cases in Harris County alone. Emily said that, in the early stages of the virus spreading, they weren't sure whether they would see an increase in calls, given that stay-at-home orders meant people would be isolated with their abusers, but they soon found out the answer.

In early April, the Houston Area Women's Center saw a 40-percent increase in the daily calls to their hotline. Compared to the same time last year, there was nearly a 50-percent increase in requests for shelter. Many of these organizations are already operating on a tight budget and working to make sure every dollar goes as far as possible.

As the need goes up, the advocates and organizations who support survivors are trying to do more and more with less and less. I was able to discuss the provisions of the CARES Act that we passed on March 25, I believe it was, and that was signed into law shortly thereafter with the provisions we made to try to offer some assistance. For example, it provided \$45 million for programs funded by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. These support a range of services, such as emergency housing for domestic violence survivors and their children. At a time when victims are isolated with their abuser and cut off from support that they may otherwise have, these services are essential.

Our legislation also sent more funding to the National Domestic Hotline, which is based in Austin, TX, so it can continue to provide support and resources to victims as the need expands. As good as this funding was, it was nothing but a start, and our efforts cannot end there.

One of the big needs that I discussed on my virtual meeting with various organizations was the need for flexibility for funding. Organizations are required to match Federal funds they receive with State or privately raised dollars, but during this time of increased need, that administrative barrier turned into a major roadblock.

In order to provide immediate relief so these groups can continue their life-saving work, last month, Governor Greg Abbott, the Governor of Texas,

waived this match requirement. This gives organizations the ability to use the funding that they have for other purposes to fulfill their greatest needs.

Right now, one of the most urgent needs is access to safe housing. If you think about it, if you are stuck in an apartment with somebody who has abused you in the past, perhaps the danger is greater because there is no money coming in the front door and maybe increased alcohol abuse. It is easy to see how the biggest need would be a safe place to go. Victims can't move on from their abusers without a safe alternative to turn to, so it is important that we make access to shelters and housing as easy as possible.

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, I introduced a bipartisan bill called the HEALS Act to help improve victims' access to housing and the services they need. It prioritizes funding for transitional housing and increases the ability to stay in that housing for victims to get back on their feet. It also directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development to further plan on how best to support victims of domestic violence.

As the Senate considers additional legislation in response to the coronavirus, we cannot lose sight of these lesser-known consequences of the pandemic. We need to continue to support and prioritize resources for survivors, and one of the most critical ways we can do that is by taking action on another piece of legislation called the Violence Against Women Act.

For more than 25 years, VAWA, as it is known, has been at the forefront of our ability to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and until recently, it remained high above the political fray. The first three times the program came up for reauthorization, there were certainly some disagreements. That is normal, but we were able to finally pull together and reach a compromise.

Unfortunately, that did not prove to be the case this time. When the time came to once again reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act last year, our friends across the aisle attempted to use this must-pass piece of legislation to score some political points. Amid the gamesmanship, VAWA expired.

As someone who has been long interested in victims' rights, I am an ardent supporter of our efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, and I have constantly fought not only to continue but to strengthen this program. That is why I am proud to have cosponsored the reauthorization bill introduced by our friend and colleague, Senator ERNST from Iowa, which would provide greater funding and stability for this program at a time when both are desperately needed.

The Violence Against Women Act has guided our Nation's effort to confront domestic violence and sexual assault for more than a quarter of a century.

The current crisis has highlighted the serious need for additional support. I am proud of the fact that, despite some of the normal dust-ups and squabbles and disagreements here, we have largely been able to act as one with passing legislation unanimously here in the Senate—the CARES Act—and to pass other legislation to provide aid to small businesses by unanimous consent.

I would hope the spirit that moved us to act in unison before in response to this coronavirus would cause us to do the same when it comes to reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. There is a time for politics. There is a time for policy debates and differences, but when it comes to reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, this is not that time.

I can only hope that all of our colleagues will respond to the better angels of our nature, particularly this time of crisis when there are so many people in danger of domestic violence that we could pass the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization as soon as possible. I think there is more we can do and should be doing to support victims of domestic violence. I know our colleagues across the aisle feel the same way. This should be a nonpartisan endeavor.

In our efforts to strengthen our Nation's response to the coronavirus and support those harmed in its wake, as we are doing that, we cannot allow victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to be left behind.

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

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

VE DAY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, 75 years ago, the scene across America and Europe was quite different than what we see today—thousands of people waving flags, dancing, hugging, kissing in the streets, all covered in confetti.

In the early morning hours of May 7, 1945, in the small town of Reims, France, the Supreme Allied Commander, Dwight David Eisenhower, signed Nazi Germany's surrender and sent a cable to Washington and to London stating that the mission of the Allied forces was fulfilled, thus ending the Nazi pandemic of tyranny and genocide. The surrender took effect on May 8, and for the first time since 1941, the U.S. Capitol was bathed again in light.

Most military historians now agree that it was Eisenhower's unique skill and persuasion that enabled the Allied effort to be successful. As Winston Churchill said, "There is only one thing worse than fighting with allies and that is fighting without them."

Simply put, Ike led the effort to preserve Western democracy and freedom, and later, as President in 1953, America experienced 8 years of peace and prosperity.

Tomorrow, on the 75th anniversary of the victory of Europe—what we call Victory in Europe Day, VE Day—the Eisenhower Memorial Commission was set to dedicate the long-awaited Presidential memorial to Dwight David Eisenhower right on the Mall in our Nation's Capital, just two blocks away.

Eisenhower once said: "Plans may end up as worthless, but planning is everything." How right he was. The Commission has set aside our plans for the dedication and is now planning a worthy ceremony in the fall. There is precedent for this delay. Just as America is pulling together to fight to defeat the COVID-19 virus, the Eisenhower administration was working with the public and the private sector until a vaccine was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk and disseminated all throughout our country. Shortly thereafter, an oral and more effective vaccine was developed by Dr. Albert Sabin. Today, polio is virtually eradicated. Today we face the same challenge.

The Eisenhower Memorial, which pays tribute to Ike's leadership as both the Supreme Allied Commander and the 34th President of the United States, is located on the National Mall and will not only honor an extraordinary man but will also be a symbol for all generations of the promise of America and what our values make possible within our Nation and all over the world.

I can personally attest to the impact Eisenhower had on my life. My dad, Wes Roberts, was the Citizens for Ike chairman during the 1952 campaign and instrumental in the first ballot victory over Senator Robert A. Taft from Ohio. He later—my dad—became national chairman of the Republican Party. So at 16 years old, I was a wide-eyed sergeant at arms during the Chicago Convention and later attended Ike's inaugural ceremonies in Washington, complete with white tie and tails. I met him both times.

When Ike came into a room, even if you had your back to him, you knew he was there. He had a ruddy complexion and a great and wonderful smile. Everyone he met liked Ike. As my lapel button indicates, we still like Ike.

I have now come full circle, serving as the chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. I know there will be dancing in the streets again, and we will be able to live our lives freely and safely, as Ike and the "greatest generation" fought to secure. We will dedicate the memorial to Kansas's favorite son and one of our greatest Presidents. After all, Ike never gave up, and neither will we.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

S. J. RES. 68

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise to override the President's veto of S.J. Res. 68, which requires the removal of U.S. troops from hostilities against Iran that Congress may not have authorized.

It seems like ages ago that we were truly on the brink of a potentially devastating, costly, and unnecessary war against Iran, but it was actually just a few months ago.

Make no mistake—even as Iranians have suffered the worst outbreak of COVID-19 in the Middle East, we have witnessed Iran continue its support for terrorism, harassment of American naval vessels, and general malfeasance throughout the region. Indeed, it now seems that Iran may be principally responsible for driving the spread of COVID-19 throughout the region. I don't think there is any question about Iran's malign activity.

More to the point of the legislation at hand, I shed no tears for Qassem Soleimani, who left a legacy of terrorism, bloodshed, and American deaths. However, this body has a constitutional responsibility and prerogative to declare war, to make the decision about whether to send our sons and daughters into battlefields. We have the responsibility to ensure that the Executive is effectively deploying every diplomatic tool it can before rushing recklessly into battle, particularly one without clearly defined outcomes or clarity of purpose. We must exercise our check over the Executive, particularly when it comes to the life and death of Americans.

Yet this administration continues to test the strength of our system of checks and balances. We saw it with this strike against Soleimani. Then it played out several times last year regarding congressional prerogatives on arms sales.

This is not the first time the President has faced a vote to override his veto. Last year, the House and the Senate made overwhelmingly clear that we had concerns about sales of certain weapons to Saudi Arabia following its disastrous campaign in Yemen and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

As the administration seeks to sell more weapons overseas, the Congress will continue to assert our prerogative when it comes to foreign policy and war-making. So, as I did earlier this year, I stand in strong support of S.J. Res. 68. This body must assert its constitutional and congressional prerogative.

Of course, the President has the right to take action to defend against imminent threats to the homeland and to Americans abroad. No one disputes that—no one. While the President has the right to take action to protect Americans from truly imminent

threats and dangers, and we must stand in support of our allies and partners, it is our responsibility to ensure that he is taking the right actions to protect Americans and our interests.

The President does not have the authority to undertake any kind of military action he likes, nor does he have the prerogative to sell weapons to any country he likes absent congressional consultation and approval. Unfortunately, as has become a pattern with this administration, the legal rationale it has offered for these attacks stretches the bounds of credibility.

Following a number of briefings from the administration, I found no compelling evidence as to what was the imminent threat or the clear and present danger to Americans. In fact, following the death of Soleimani, we saw even more attacks on American assets and interests.

Just a few weeks ago, Iran was harassing our ships in the Arabian Gulf, and Iran also claims to have launched a military satellite into orbit. It does not sound like the administration's actions have meaningfully "restored deterrence" of any kind against Iranian malign activity.

Additionally, let me reiterate that the idea that somehow the administration has the authority under the 2002 AUMF to attack Soleimani simply because he was in Iraq is completely ludicrous. As someone who voted against the war in Iraq when I was in the House of Representatives during the debate over whether to authorize military action, I can assure you that it was not its intention of that 2002 authorization for the use of military force, and it does not comport with the history, the use, or the plain reading of the text.

Colleagues, I urge you to stand up for our congressional prerogatives, our congressional responsibilities, and our constitutional responsibilities, and to make clear to the President that we are a coequal branch of government that will hold the Executive accountable.

I want to thank Senator KAINE for his dedication to this issue and to defending our constitutional rights.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I want to report on an important hearing the Senate HELP Committee just completed. Senator MURRAY and I organized it. We heard from Francis Collins, the distinguished scientist who is head of the National Institutes of Health, about his new program, funded by Congress, to spend \$1.5 billion, or \$2.5 billion if you include the money we gave to BARDA, to develop a new technology that will produce tens of millions of rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19.

Mr. President, my opening statement at that hearing can be found online at [https://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=](https://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=SpeechesFloor) SpeechesFloor

Statements&id=1AF0B54F-A9EC-4007-9146-E8D386531C4F.

I would like to refer to a speech made by the former majority leader of the Senate, Bill Frist, in 2005, which reminds us that we have been working on these programs for a long time and which can be found online at <https://asecondopinionpodcast.com/frist-predicts-global-pandemic/>. On April 13, "The American Mind" published Senator Frist's essay, "A Storm for Which We Were Unprepared," which can be found online at <https://americanmind.org/essays/a-storm-for-which-we-were-unprepared/>.

Senator Frist's speech, which was made at a time when we were dealing with 9/11 and before Ebola but SARS and other viruses, he predicted exactly what is happening—we are going to have a virus this year, and we will have another one, and then we will have another one.

Since that time, over the last 20 years, we have had three Presidents—a Bush, an Obama, and a Trump—several Congresses who passed seven big laws. We have created a stockpile, we have created an Assistant Secretary for Preparedness, and we have spent the last 5 years with record investments in the National Institutes of Health.

We were in a situation where, on March 1, the New York Times reported that "most experts agree," the Times reported on its front page, that the United States is better prepared than almost any country to deal with this epidemic. Yet we were not as well prepared as we would like to have been.

So we had a hearing today, one, to focus on this shark tank, as Senator BLUNT and I like to call it, where Dr. Collins is inviting the best ideas from around the country for new technologies.

That is not to say we haven't been testing. The United States, according to Johns Hopkins and President Trump, has tested 7 million Americans—more than any country; more per capita, for example, than South Korea, which we often admire for the way it has dealt with COVID-19. So we are testing a lot of people.

But if we want to go back to work and we want to go back to school, we are going to need to have quick, reliable tests for everybody in the nursing home, everybody in the meatpacking plant, everybody maybe on the college campus, everybody in a graded school. We are going to have such widespread testing that people will be willing to come out of their homes and go back to work. That is one reason we need the testing.

The second reason we need the testing is because it helps contain the disease. We know how to stop the spread of the disease. If every single one of us just stayed in our room, it wouldn't spread. We have come pretty close to doing that for the last 5 weeks and nearly destroyed our economy in the process, but we had to do it.

The other way to do it is have enough tests to identify the people who are

sick. We don't know exactly how many that is. I would guess—and I am no scientist, but just from the scientists I talk to, I am guessing that in Tennessee it is 3, 5, 7 percent of us who might have this virus, and maybe half of us or some of us have symptoms, and the rest of us don't. But what we need to do is identify who those people are and quarantine them for 2 weeks or help them in the hospital, and then the rest of us can go back to school and back to work. We can't do that without tens of millions of more tests, even though we are testing more people than any other country in the world.

That is what we are talking about, and we are so fortunate to have Dr. Francis Collins, who headed the Human Genome Project, to lead that effort. He has been at the National Institutes of Health for 27 years. He led it during President Obama's time and during President Trump's time. He has invited the best ideas from around the country and gotten more than 1,000 proposals. We call it a shark tank because there is a reality television show where entrepreneurs fight to see who can win. Well, all we need is one or two or three winners of the sharks swimming around in this tank, and then BARDA—our other agency that is involved—can go to work with manufacturers and begin to produce tens of millions of these tests. How quickly? We don't know, and we shouldn't predict things we don't know, but our goal is to produce millions more tests by August, when 100,000 public schools want to open and 5,000 colleges want to open, first, by accelerating all the known technologies, and second, by finding some mighty white shark in this shark tank that produces a new technology.

There is a lot of talk about antigen tests. There is one proposal that would have you take just a simple nose swab—not the kind of thing that goes all the way back into your throat but a simple nose swab, maybe even saliva. You take a picture of it with your cell phone, and if it is positive, it tells you and it sends that to your doctor. It is that simple. It is as simple as a pregnancy test. That would be a screening test, and you might need to take a second test to confirm it because some of these screening tests aren't 100 percent.

We had a very good hearing. We heard from Dr. Collins. We have exactly the right person. We have good cooperation with BARDA, the agency that has done so much good work, and I am looking forward to the results.

I would say to my colleagues, we have another hearing scheduled. We are doing our job of oversight. On next Tuesday, Senator MURRAY and I have scheduled a hearing on safely back to school and back to work. That will feature Dr. Fauci, who has become something of a television personality over the last 3 or 4 weeks, but he has appeared before our committee many times; Dr. Redfield, who is head of the Centers for Disease Control; Dr. Hahn,

who is head of the Food and Drug Administration, which has to approve the safety and effectiveness of all these ideas; and Admiral Giroir, who is coordinating testing.

Dr. Collins also said that we are making great strides in treatments and in vaccines. Congress has appropriated \$3 trillion—I see my friend from Oklahoma here, so I will come to a conclusion so he can have his time—Congress has appropriated \$3 trillion, but the most important money we have appropriated goes for tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Dr. Collins is leading the accelerated effort with nearly 1,000 proposals now that were set up in record time—sort of a mini-Manhattan Project—to take the brainpower of this country and see if we can find a new way to create these rapid tests and then work with BARDA and manufacturers to produce tens of millions of them so we can go back to school in August and millions more so that we can get ready for the flu season.

There are also promising treatments, medicines that will be ready by the summertime. As Senator KENNEDY from Louisiana observed in one of our meetings, what bothers most people about this disease is that they might die from it. There is no medicine to treat it. Well, now there is one approved by the FDA, and there should be more by the summer.

Finally, the administration has set as a very aggressive goal the only thing that will really put us back to anything approaching normal, which is a vaccine. Their goal is that we would produce 100 million doses by September and 300 million by the end of the year, which is much more rapid than we have ever done before. I have no idea whether it is possible, but I like the idea of the goal.

So the shark tank for the tests, the acceleration of treatments for the summer, the warp speed vaccination—all in a country that has everybody working hard on the problem. Yes, there was a bump in the CDC tests to start with, but today we have tested 7 million people—more than any other country. And I think it is important for the American people to know that on tests, treatments, and vaccines, we are all working as hard as we can.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING THOMAS COBURN

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I rise to pause and remember March 28, 2020. It is a day that Oklahomans and the Nation lost a patriot and a friend to many.

I stand here at this desk that I have used for the past 5 years, but before it was my desk, it was the desk of Dr. Tom Coburn.

A few days after we gaveled out in March, Dr. Coburn took his first breath in Heaven, where he was finally cancer-free, finally pain-free, and living in the presence of Jesus, where there is no

government waste and no inefficiency, where there is no conflict, and liberty is absolutely eternal. We will miss his sage advice, his blunt perspective, and his steadfast wisdom.

Dr. Coburn served in this Chamber for 10 years, from 2005 to 2015, but he also served in the House of Representatives for 6 years, from 1995 to 2001. The one title he carried in both of those Chambers was “Doctor,” and that was his preferred term.

Thomas Allen Coburn was born in Casper, WY, on March 14, 1948. Dr. Coburn graduated from Central High School in 1966. In 1968, he married Carolyn Denton—by the way, the 1967 Miss Oklahoma. They had three daughters and nine grandchildren.

At Oklahoma State University, Dr. Coburn was an honor student and president of the student business council. He graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

After the family business he worked at was sold, he attended medical school at the University of Oklahoma and received his medical degree with honors in 1983. He interned at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. In 1986, he founded the Muskogee Family Medicine practice, which is still in operation today.

His victory over melanoma as a young man inspired him to become a physician. He stated he wanted to give back because he had been given to. Unfortunately, that battle with melanoma when he was a young man was not his last battle with cancer.

As a physician, his dedication to his patients was inexhaustible. Over his career, he delivered 4,000 babies and would often see 30 patients a day in his office.

After his election to the House of Representatives in 1994, he would fly home from Washington, DC, so that he could continue to see his patients on weekends—a schedule he maintained for the entire 6 years he spent in the House. He was a doctor all the time.

It was not uncommon for him to be in a conversation with someone, and right in the middle of the conversation, he would ask them how they were feeling because he had picked up something in their demeanor that he thought was a little bit wrong.

Dr. Coburn was a deacon and a Sunday school teacher.

In all the story that I have told you, if you are looking for some element of politics in the background, you won't find it until 1994. His decision to run for Congress in 1994 was a long shot. He narrowly won, becoming the first Republican to represent Oklahoma's Second Congressional District in 73 years.

He went to Congress as a man on a mission. He was determined to help solve the Nation's problems. His focus was not Oklahoma; it was the Nation.

I remember asking him privately before I started serving in the House of Representatives how he made a difference. His answer was that there are two people who make a difference in

Congress—the person who studies and the committee chairman. Study more than anyone else, know the issue, and you can get it done.

His tenacity on every issue was legendary. POLITICO once summarized it well, saying: “A typical bill moving through the Senate has a number of institutional hurdles to clear: subcommittee, committee, leadership and Coburn. It's that last one that you won't find in a textbook.”

His staff were wholly devoted to the cause, not necessarily because of him but because of the mission. One of his former staffers wrote this after Dr. Coburn passed:

We blocked a lot of bills. We offered a lot of amendments. We lost a lot of votes. We highlighted a lot of wasteful spending. We irked a lot of people. And over time, we started changing how business was done. Bills that added new spending couldn't pass without offsets. Program duplication became part of the lexicon. The practice of earmarking went away. People started paying attention to government waste.

Doctor Coburn's annual “Wastebook” became one of the more high-profile reports coming out of Washington each year. Over the years, Dr. Coburn and his team highlighted trillions in questionable spending on low-priority items that taxpayers were unwittingly paying for. Any spending that proved to be classic Federal wastefulness, duplicative, fraudulent, or purely ineffective, likely made the list each year. The “Wastebook” became an annual rallying cry for taxpayers frustrated by Washington's spending habits. Phrases that are common in American political conversations today, like “the bridge to nowhere,” “shrimp on a treadmill,” “term limits,” and “earmarks,” were all battles that he fought to win.

In 2010, in a fight over the debt limit increase, Dr. Coburn created an annual report from the Government Accountability Office on government duplication. It seemed like just another government report, but that report—that report that he passed in 2010—has saved taxpayers \$262 billion dollars so far.

Dr. Coburn and his team were in the fights worth fighting, but they were battling on the playing field of ideas and policy proposals, not against people. In a town that wants to label everything left versus right, liberal versus conservative, Dr. Coburn and his team didn't have any criteria to meet for those who joined them in the fight; they were willing to pull together any ally. You didn't have to agree on everything, but as long as you agreed on a couple things in front of you, that is what mattered. The friendships that were forged in the fight were genuine, true, and certainly unique.

He was the chief sponsor of President Obama's USASpending.gov to increase transparency in government spending. He was a champion for HIV/AIDS patients and medical research to save lives. He was a tenacious fighter against Social Security disability fraud, eventually exposing a \$1 billion Social Security scam in West Virginia

run by a lawyer named Eric Conn, a Kentucky lawyer who filed thousands of bogus disability applications.

He was a master of Senate rules—his clay pigeon amendment is legendary in Senate procedure. He was one of the unlikeliest Members to vote for TARP in 2008. It was probably one of the hardest votes that he took, but when he looked at the facts in front of him, he saw that it was the right thing to do. That was ultimately what it boiled down to—he was willing to do the right thing, no matter what the cost. He opposed what needed opposition, but he would prefer to argue in private to resolve an issue rather than in public, although he was clearly not afraid to argue in public.

After years of serving families as their physician—a task he continued on weekends even when he was in the House of Representatives—the Senate Ethics Committee ruled that Dr. Coburn was violating conflict of interest rules by holding an outside job and prohibited him from practicing medicine as a Senator. Dr. Coburn then just stopped taking payment and did his work as a physician pro bono, and the Ethics Committee also rejected that plan and prohibited him from working pro bono, even as a physician.

Ironically, I am now the chairman of Ethics for the Senate. The last time I visited with Dr. Coburn at his house in February, in the middle of our long, great conversation, he said to me: Since you are the chairman of Ethics, why don't you get that rule changed and allow doctors to still practice medicine while they are in the Senate? That is wrong. That needs to be fixed.

Even in the end, he was still working to right what was wrong.

Many people know that when Dr. Coburn left the Senate, he spent his time trying to fix Congress—still working on term limits and a balanced budget amendment.

If you have not seen it, you should read some of the things his former staff wrote about Dr. Coburn after he passed away a few weeks ago. Any Senator in this Chamber could only wish that our staff looked up to us as much as his staff looked up to him.

I thought the best way to honor Dr. Coburn today, though, was to remind this body of what Dr. Coburn said as he walked out of this body—his farewell speech. Among the many things he said, he challenged the Senate and Senators by saying this:

The Senate was designed uniquely to force compromise, not to force gridlock—to force compromise. One Senator had the power to stop everything for the first 100 years but it didn't because compromise was the goal.

Our Founders understood there were many differences between the States in size, in geography, economy, and opinions. They united the States as one country based upon the premise that the many are more powerful than the one. As Senators, we have to follow this example.

Then, he said this:

I've not always done that—I admit that freely to you. I should have.

As Senators, we must follow the example and stand for our principles, but working to find those areas of agreement where compromise can be found to unite and move our country forward. Not all the powers of the Senators are exercised on the Senate floor. Each Member of the Senate has a unique role to participate and practice oversight and to hold the government accountable. That is part of our duties, except most often that is the part of our duties that is most ignored.

True debates about national priorities would come about if we did effective oversight. It is the Senate, once hailed as the world's greatest deliberative body, where these differences should be argued. Our differences should be resolved through civil discourse so they are not settled in the streets. Just as the Constitution provides for majority rule in our democracy, while protecting the rights of individuals, the Senate must return to principles to bring trust to the electorate, and it can.

The theme of his whole farewell speech centered around this one statement:

We do not have one problem we cannot solve. There is nothing too big for us. They are all solvable.

On this National Day of Prayer, I believe it is entirely appropriate that we pray for Dr. Coburn's family, friends, and former staff, who will miss his friendship and his counsel, and so will our Nation.

I pray that Carolyn, their daughters, and their families cherish the memories of a husband, dad, and grandfather. Our State and our Nation will be forever grateful for your sacrifice. I pray that the task Dr. Coburn began would be completed for the sake of our liberty and of our future, and I pray that this body will take up the challenge he left on this floor: to solve the hard problems we face as a nation together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSOR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to add my colleague, Senator BROWN from Ohio, as a cosponsor to S.J. Res. 68.

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

S.J. RES. 68

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to speak about President Trump's veto of S.J. Res. 68, a veto that he communicated to the Senate by a statement yesterday afternoon. We debated this at length in February. So there is no need to spend too much time on the substance.

I was proud of the resolution, cosponsoring it in a bipartisan way, to assert the importance of the Senate. I very much appreciated hearing my colleague from Oklahoma talk about the importance of the Senate. The debate

that we had in February about S.J. Res. 68 was about the importance of Congress in one of the most important responsibilities we have, whether or not the Nation would go to war.

We specified in that resolution that except to defend the Nation against attack or imminent attack, the United States would not be engaged in war with the government of Iran absent a congressional vote. It passed this body by a healthy bipartisan margin and also passed the House by a bipartisan margin. The President has vetoed S.J. Res. 68, and the next vote at 1:30 will be on whether to override the veto. I know what the votes will be because we have already voted on this once.

I want to just focus for a minute on the President's veto statement, which I think is instructive. When he vetoed S.J. Res. 68, this was his primary reason—the first thing he said:

This was a very insulting resolution introduced by Democrats as part of a strategy to win an election on November 3 by dividing the Republican Party. The few Republicans who voted for it played right into their hands.

What I find so notable about that statement is that the President could not see Congress expressing an opinion about war through any lens other than himself and his reelection on November 3. As everyone in this Chamber knows, the bill was not a partisan bill. It was introduced with an even number of bipartisan Senators. It was not part of a strategy to hurt President Trump. I have advocated these same positions, as have other Members of this body, under Presidents who were both Democrat and Republican. The Republican Senators and Democratic Senators who voted for it and those who voted against it had particular views about the allocation of constitutional war powers, but in no way was this partisan, and in no way was it part of a strategy dealing with the November 3 election.

For President Trump to look at a matter of war and peace and the Constitutional obligations of Congress through the lens of the November election, frankly, shocked me.

The President, later in the statement, said:

The United States is not engaged in the use of force against Iran.

Let's be clear. The U.S. military engaged in military action that wiped out Iran's top military commander. If any other Nation did that to our Secretary of Defense or Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would we call that a use of force against the United States? Of course we would. As for the strike against General Soleimani, you might say it was a great thing. The President advocated for it. No one is sad that General Soleimani does not exist. But rather than justifying it as a necessity, the President says it was not a use of force against Iran.

The President goes on to say that the strike was justified by law, citing article II of the Constitution—we had some

debates about that, obviously—but also citing the Iraq war resolution of 2002. I have not heard anyone assert that as a justification for killing an Iranian leader. That resolution, which is now essentially dead letter, was designed to topple the government of Saddam Hussein, and to use that as a resolution to attack members of the Iranian Government is a stretch.

Finally, the President says:

We live in a hostile world of evolving threats, and the Constitution recognizes that the President must be able to anticipate our adversary's next moves and take swift and decisive action and response.

He concludes:

Congress should not have passed this resolution.

You cannot tell the article I branch how to do its job. We can't tell the article II branch how to do its job. But for the President to say it is insulting for Congress to take up matters of war and peace and that we should not have passed the resolution, to me, demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the importance of the article I branch.

We are not an article 2½ branch, and we are not required to play "Mother May I" with the President. We have our own independent responsibilities that we swear to uphold.

S.J. Res. 68, in my view, was a great example of coming together in a bipartisan way to uphold those responsibilities. I urge my colleagues to vote to override President Trump's veto of the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are here today to ensure the Senate fulfills its constitutional duties in having the sole power to send U.S. troops to war.

Article 1, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution is explicit in saying the power to declare war is an explicit power of the Congress.

Congress overwhelming reaffirmed this Constitutional provision when it passed the War Powers law in 1973 over the veto of President Nixon after the American people were lied to by both political parties about that war.

Under the law, the President has the authority to approve military attacks as a response to an imminent threat or with the expressed authorization of Congress.

Neither of these was the case with President Trump's decision to kill Iranian General Soleimani in January, a decision that led to a horrific missile attack on U.S. forces in Iraq and only further added to ongoing tensions with Iran.

The majority leader has argued that the War Powers law is somehow only relevant to thousands of troops being deployed to a Vietnam type situation, not a military action the President argues is simply a deterrence.

Well, that is a dangerous rationale argument and exactly what this law had in mind, the reckless or creeping escalation to war without the authorization of Congress.

In fact, the recent briefing by the administration on Iran was filled with

echoes of the Gulf of Tonkin, vague assertions used to justify stunning military escalation in Vietnam.

It raised serious concerns about what we are being told about the justifications for the attack and showed little evidence of an imminent threat and this from an administration whose President has made more than 18,000 misleading or false statements already.

Certainly nothing in the briefings offered the Senate convinced me that the administration even thinks it needs congressional authorization for taking escalatory actions.

That is why I joined Senator Kaine in invoking the War Powers Act. This Senate should not allow the country to led into another Middle East war without its consent.

And the Constitution is clear on this; Article I section 8 states that the power to declare war is an explicit power of the Congress—as it should be, one should never send our sons and daughters into war without the consent of the people.

I have made this same argument regardless of who was in the White House, Republican or Democrat.

I urge my colleagues to join us in reaffirming this body's constitutional role in matters of war by overriding the President's veto.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, in February, a bipartisan majority of the Senate voted to affirm our constitutional authority to declare war and to prohibit the President from starting a war with Iran. In March, the House of Representatives also cast a bipartisan vote to affirm that Congress, and Congress alone, has the authority to declare war.

The President has vetoed that Iran War Powers resolution, rebuking the will of Congress, the will of the American people, and the directive of the U.S. Constitution.

It is now up to Congress to reassert our authority, to override this veto, and to make good on the words of article 2, section 8 of the Constitution that gives Congress the sole power to “declare War”—because the last thing we need right now, at this time of grave crisis for our Nation, is a crisis of our own making in the Middle East—a protracted, unconstitutional conflict with Iran.

Some would like to think that there is no chance that this President would begin a war with Iran in the middle of a global pandemic, a war that would kill Americans and Iranians alike.

Think again.

On March 11, a barrage of rockets hit an airbase north of Baghdad housing U.S. troops, and killing two. That day marked the birthday of Iran's General Suleimani, who was killed in January in an unprovoked attack ordered by the President.

The attack was launched by a Shiite military group, whose leader also had been killed during the January attack on Suleimani. However, the Pentagon did not have solid evidence that the at-

tack had been ordered by the Iranian Government.

But the President's advisers, who have supported a maximum pressure campaign that has risked military conflict with Iran, did not wait for clear-cut evidence of Iran's involvement to try to push us closer to war. Senior advisers to the President, including Secretary of State Pompeo, strongly argued that the U.S. should launch a direct attack upon Iran in retaliation.

Pentagon and military leaders pushed back against Secretary Pompeo's call for military action inside Iran, warning that a large-scale response within Iran's borders could draw us into a wider war with that country.

Thankfully, these cooler heads prevailed, and the President ended up ordering night airstrikes against the militia's outposts inside Iraq to limit the possible death toll.

But, not satisfied with that response, Pentagon officials have ordered the military to draw up a plan to destroy the responsible militia group inside Iran.

However, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, LTG Robert P. White, has reacted strongly to that directive, warning that any such campaign could be bloody and counterproductive and risk war with Iran. He warned any such escalation would require thousands more American troops be sent to Iraq.

So, since March, at least twice, high level Pentagon and military officials have warned that Trump administration officials' plans risk war with Iran.

And, most recently, President Trump tweeted out an order to rewrite the rules of engagement at sea to attack harassing Iranian ships. While we condemn such harassing conduct, this is conduct the U.S. and other nations have determined is not worth a widespread war.

With the advisers that the President surrounds himself with, like Secretary Pompeo and Special Advisor Brian Hook, the chilling fact is we are never far from war with Iran. The threat is ever-present, even as coronavirus ravages our country and spreads within the military and even when all resources of the Federal Government should be singularly focused on fighting this pandemic, keeping Americans safe, and keeping our economy going.

So since we are still at risk of war with Iran in the middle of this public health and economic crisis, it is more imperative than ever that we override the President's veto and pass the Iran War Powers resolution once and for all.

At this point in time, it would exponentially worsen the current disaster if we were to bungle our way into another Middle Eastern war with Iran.

The American people don't want war with Iran. They didn't want it before this terrible virus hit, and they certainly don't want it now while we are in the throes of this pandemic.

But Secretary Pompeo and his hawkish allies in the administration cannot be counted on to represent the will of the American people.

That is why we are here. And that is why the Framers of the Constitution vested the authority to go to war with the legislative branch and not the executive branch. They placed the authority to go to war squarely with the people's representatives.

At this point in time, all national resources must be directed toward the public health and economic crisis facing our Nation. Now is the time to send a message to this President and those in his administration who seem to be always itching to escalate the conflict, that initiating war against Iran is not this President's or any President's choice to make.

Mr. Kaine. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, this is one of the rare places where you can be in an institution with someone you dearly love and yet disagree with so strongly. That is the relationship that we have. I have a lot of respect for my friend from Virginia, but I think this has been twisted around in a way to make the President look bad. In his heart, he knew what he was doing at the time.

You know, we have to keep in mind—and I would even suggest—that this is probably the boldest defense policy decision of his Presidency to date. He authorized an airstrike against the leader of Iran's Quds Force, Qasem Soleimani, in accordance with, I still believe, his privilege and responsibilities under article II of the Constitution.

Now, let's remember who Soleimani was. It has been awhile now and a lot has happened since then, but he was a terrorist. He was responsible for the training and funding of militias across the Middle East, the very militias that had targeted American personnel, facilities, and partners for decades. He was a monster—nothing less.

Some people out there want to believe that his action was a rush to war. Nothing could be further from the truth. Instead, looking at the facts, they pushed ahead with the War Powers Resolution, and instead of making war less likely, it made it more likely.

Let me tell you how.

The resolution was shortsighted and dangerous in February, but the 4 months since then have only confirmed that it was not necessary. We are clearly not at war. Not only that, but an airstrike is not war. Defending American lives is not war. The President has made it clear that he doesn't desire war. We all know that. Nobody here wants war.

At the same time, nobody should want a policy that would leave Americans vulnerable to the whims of Iran's terrorist-supporting regime. If we do that, if we tie the President's hands so that he cannot defend American lives, we leave ourselves more vulnerable and, therefore, make war infinitely more likely, and accordingly, we must all vote to sustain the President's veto.

I yield the floor.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the joint resolution pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays are required under the Constitution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent; the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 84 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Table listing Senators who voted YEAS: Alexander, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Booker, Cantwell, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Cassidy, Collins, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Durbin, Feinstein, Gillibrand, Harris, Hassan, Heinrich, Hirono, Jones, Kaune, King, Klobuchar, Leahy, Lee, Manchin, Markey, Menendez, Merkley, Murkowski, Murphy, Paul, Peters, Reed, Rosen, Schumer, Shaheen, Sinema, Smith, Tester, Udall, Van Hollen, Warner, Warren, Whitehouse, Wyden, Young.

NAYS—44

Table listing Senators who voted NAYS: Barrasso, Blackburn, Blunt, Boozman, Braun, Capito, Cornyn, Cotton, Cramer, Crapo, Cruz, Daines, Enzi, Ernst, Fischer, Gardner, Graham, Grassley, Hawley, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Inhofe, Johnson, Kennedy, Lankford, Loeffler, McConnell, McSally, Perdue, Portman, Risch, Roberts, Romney, Rounds, Rubio, Sasse, Scott (FL), Scott (SC), Shelby, Sullivan, Thune, Tillis, Toomey, Wicker.

NOT VOTING—7

Table listing Senators who did not vote: Brown, Burr, Moran, Murray, Sanders, Schatz, Stabenow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 44.

Two-thirds of the Senators being duly chosen and sworn, a quorum being present and not having voted in the affirmative, the joint resolution on reconsideration fails to pass over the veto of the President of the United States.

The majority leader.

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. 547.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

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 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 Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, James Lankford, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner, Marsha Blackburn, John Cornyn, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo.

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. 339.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

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 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 Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, James Lankford, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Tom Cotton, Kevin Cramer, Cory Gardner, Shelley Moore Capito, Marsha Blackburn, John Cornyn, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

The Senator from Maryland.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight the heroes of my home State of Maryland who are working on the frontlines to fight COVID-19.

On January 21, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States. Since then, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States has ballooned to over 1.2 million cases and over 72,000 Americans have died.

The CDC has designated the Baltimore-Washington corridor as a hotspot, as cases continue to rise in the region. As of May 6, there have been 28,163 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,290 confirmed deaths in the State of Maryland. These are trying, unprecedented times for all communities in America, and Maryland is no different in this regard.

Fred Rogers once said that in times of crisis, times like these, we should "look for the helpers." I would like to take this time to recognize some of the heroes who are helping communities in Maryland.

I am very proud of our State's hospitals, distilleries, manufacturers, and biomedical and pharmaceutical companies that have come together to perform their own testing, manufactured personal protective equipment and hand sanitizers, and are at the forefront of developing a vaccine.

Maryland is home to some of the world's premier academic medical systems, including the University of Maryland Medical System and Johns Hopkins University, which have been critical in preparing our State for the pandemic.

I am particularly proud of Johns Hopkins' coronavirus tracking system, which public health officials worldwide have come to rely on for up-to-date, accurate information. I applaud Johns



Hopkins officials and staff creating the vital public health tool, which has already proven itself critical to fighting this disease.

Lord Kelvin stated so long ago:

When you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it; but when you cannot measure it, when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind.

In the early days of the pandemic in Maryland, our State officials, like officials in most States, were desperately searching for ways to increase testing capacity. Johns Hopkins developed its own coronavirus test to help meet demand.

The university has been especially helpful in Maryland's effort to combat the virus in nursing homes. Johns Hopkins has closely collaborated with local nursing homes to train their employees and test residents to protect our most vulnerable populations.

I commend Johns Hopkins' ingenuity, which has been critical to efforts to identify those afflicted with COVID-19 and to prevent the spread of the virus.

The University of Maryland Medical System has stepped up to lead efforts to address the devastating impact of COVID-19 in our State's minority communities, which is likely due to the underlying healthcare disparities. The university has assembled a team of public health experts to execute the proposed Maryland Health Equity COVID-19 Consortium. The consortium will be critical to the developing of strategies that inform our State's response efforts to protect our communities of color, who are more susceptible to COVID-19.

Despite the immense burden Maryland's small businesses are facing, they have stepped up to help local hospitals, nursing homes, and other frontline workers.

Sagamore Spirits Distillery in Baltimore is one such small business. Sagamore has completely converted its operation to distill corn ethanol to produce hand sanitizers. The distillery is sourcing its corn from Maryland farmers.

Hardwire, an armor company on the Eastern Shore in Pocomoke City, now produces sustainable face shields that can last up to 6 months. By the end of this week, Hardwire will have shipped out 1 million face shields to healthcare workers, first responders, and others on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19. The demand for Hardwire's face shield is so great that it has hired 115 new employees, providing much needed economic relief to communities on the Eastern Shore.

In addition, Maryland's world-leading biomedical and pharmaceutical companies are working tirelessly to find a vaccine for COVID-19.

AstraZeneca, a pharmaceutical and life sciences company with research and development facilities in Gaithersburg and Frederick, has partnered with

the University of Oxford on a potential vaccine that has already entered phase 1 clinical trials.

Emergent BioSolutions in Rockville is collaborating with Johnson & Johnson on its lead COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Emergent BioSolutions will be providing contract development and manufacturing services in Maryland to support Johnson & Johnson's recently announced commitment to supply 1 billion vaccines worldwide.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank Maryland's frontline healthcare workers who risk their lives every day to care for those with COVID-19. These physicians, physician assistants, nurses, lab technicians, EMT personnel, and many others go to work day after day facing the unimaginable strain of caring for patients who are fighting this deadly virus and comforting their families.

These examples are by no means exhaustive. There are countless other healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, nonprofits, small businesses, higher education institutions, and individual Marylanders pitching in to defeat COVID-19.

Marylanders are stocking grocery shelves, driving buses, delivering groceries to elderly neighbors, hosting virtual events to keep families and young children entertained as they continue to practice social distancing, and they are making homemade face coverings for those who need them. I have seen my neighbors come together to make lunch packs for families in need.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve." The COVID-19 pandemic is not testing our character; it is revealing it. I am so proud to represent all the great Marylanders who are serving on the frontlines, and I will continue working as hard as I can to ensure that we in Congress are doing everything we can to support them as they lead the fight against COVID-19.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 3608

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, \$3 trillion. As best I can tell, that is how much money the Congress has appropriated—let me amend that. That is how much taxpayer money Congress has appropriated to fight the coronavirus and its aftermath—\$3 trillion. That is 12 zeros. Three trillion dollars is 3,000 billion dollars.

These numbers take my breath away. We spent this money even though we don't have it. We don't even have 5 percent of it. We borrowed every penny. Our national debt will now be approximating, maybe exceeding \$25 trillion.

The last coronavirus bill that we passed, as you know, was the CARES Act, but it was not the only bill. We have passed a number of pieces of legis-

lation to try to fight this virus and the COVID-19 that it causes, and those bills were very hard for me to vote for, not because I don't care about the American people—I do, of course; we all do—but because of the fact that this is such a staggering amount of money.

I have spent my career in government—more at the State government level than the Federal Government level—I have spent my career in government being cheap when it comes to taxpayer money, and it bothers me, as it should bother all of us, that we spent money we don't have.

I have driven all over Washington, DC, and I can't find the money tree. These are taxpayer dollars. But I voted for the bills, including but not limited to the CARES Act, because it was clear we had to do something. We had to appropriate money to fight the virus. We had to appropriate money to help people and their businesses to recover economically from the impact of the virus.

We don't know what works in the CARES Act and what doesn't work, and we won't know for a while. I suspect we will look back and say: Well, this measure was a pretty smart thing to do—and with hindsight, but this measure fell a little bit short.

But already many of my colleagues, and I say this with respect, have other bills to spend even more money, primarily to help State and local government. It is like a Labor Day mattress sale around here, the number of bills flying around. Someone wants to spend another \$250 billion. Somebody else wants to spend \$500 billion and give it to State and local government. Speaker PELOSI wants to spend \$1 trillion. I think all that is premature. I suggest that we pause once again, we see what works, we see what has worked, and see what hasn't worked.

Also, it would seem to me that any fair-minded person would have to conclude that we should open up. Once we open up government and see the economic impact, we will have additional information. And make no mistake about it—we are going to have to open up the economy again. I don't see any reason why we can't both save lives and save jobs.

But I want to make it clear that every single one of these 3 trillion dollars, as far as I am concerned, is a precious commodity because they come from taxpayers.

The discussion that many of my colleagues have been having about spending additional money on top of the \$3 trillion specifically for State and local government seems to forget that we have already appropriated an enormous amount of money to State and local government.

In my State, for example—I will just take Louisiana—I think, as a result of the CARES Act, we are going to receive about \$3½ billion, and I am very grateful for every single penny. This Congress appropriated \$287 million for public schools in Louisiana, \$190 million for universities, \$623 million for

hospitals. We have received extra Medicaid payments. Additionally, Louisianans have received \$1.803 billion for State and local government. You add it all up, and that is about \$3½ billion that has already been appropriated just to Louisiana. Some States got more; some States got less.

So the point I am trying to make is that we need to recognize the fact that we have already done a lot for State government, and we have already done a lot for our cities. And I happily voted for the bill. I had some reluctance for reasons I have explained—just the breathtaking amount of money.

This doesn't mean that our State and local governments are not going to have to sacrifice. We have certainly asked the American people to sacrifice, and we have certainly asked the American business community to sacrifice, and I think State government and local government are going to have to share in that sacrifice. They are going to have to scrub their budgets, and that is just a fact.

As far as I am concerned, the Federal Government needs to do the same thing. There is not a single Member of this body who believes every single penny we spend in the Federal budget is absolutely necessary.

I have a bill that I think may well make it unnecessary to appropriate new money for our State and local governments. I have a bill that I think may well moot the entire issue.

We made one mistake—we probably made others, but in my judgment, I know we made one in the CARES Act when we put restrictions on the amount of money we gave to State and local government. Now, I understand why we did it, and at the time, I supported it. We do not want to bail out States, for example, that have been mismanaged. If a State decides to give generous retirement benefits at an early retirement age to its State employees, as far as I am concerned, that is that State's business, but also, as far as I am concerned, the people of Louisiana shouldn't have to pay for that—what, in my opinion, is mismanagement—and I think a number of my colleagues in the Senate share that sentiment.

But in hindsight—I will take Louisiana as an example. We received \$1.8 billion. There is a requirement in the legislation that says that \$1.8 billion can only be used to defray the expenses of coronavirus expended by the State of Louisiana and by our cities. That is what the statute says. It is the statute passed by Congress that controls.

I am not sure what the Treasury Department issued, but they issued something—they didn't go through the APA—that says: Well, the States—Louisiana, for example, has great flexibility to spend that \$1.8 billion that we received in Louisiana that went to State and local government. They can spend it on first responders and policemen and school teachers. I appreciate the Department of Treasury issuing

whatever it was they issued. I think they called it a directive.

There is just one problem: The statute doesn't say that, and the U.S. Treasury does not have the authority—nor should it—to change a bill passed by the Congress.

So I am grateful to Secretary Mnuchin for trying to help here, but I don't believe what he is doing is legal, and it gives me great pause that State government and our cities might act on a directive from the Treasury that could change 2 weeks from now. I think the only way to address this issue is through a statute passed by Congress.

Here is what my bill would do. My bill would not appropriate any new money. Let me say that again. My bill would not appropriate any new money. My bill would say that, with respect to the \$150 billion that this Congress—unanimously, in the Senate—has already appropriated to help State governments and local governments, which is the \$1.8 billion that I am referring to that Louisiana received, they can use that money for operating expenses.

They can't use it—my bill would specifically prohibit it—to bail out mismanaged retirement systems. They can't use it to bail out any retirement systems, mismanaged or otherwise, but they can use that money, with this small change to the CARES Act, to fill the holes in their budget as a result of any revenue shortfalls.

In my State, for example, we are very heavily reliant on the sales tax and on the personal income tax. I think this measure may well moot the issue of having to appropriate brand new money for States and local governments. The Governors I talked to tell me: Kennedy, look, we really appreciate the money you sent State and local governments. There is just one problem. Our hands are tied. Our problem today is not enough money to fight the virus. Our problem today is, How do we fill a hole as a result of the shortfalls in our sales tax?

That is what my bill would do.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of S. 3608—that is my bill—and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the Kennedy substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read for a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I clearly appreciate my colleague's remarks. State, local, and Tribal governments across our great country are working tirelessly during this difficult time and

have received Federal funding through the CARES Act, specifically directed to aid in their efforts to keep families safe.

While I understand the spirit of my colleague's proposal, I am very concerned that removing the important limitations related to the appropriate uses of the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act would siphon resources away from the coronavirus response efforts that desperately need these resources.

Further, I am unfortunately hearing that some States and localities would simply like to use Federal dollars to backfill their decades of fiscal mismanagement. Hard-working American taxpayers should not be on the hook to bail out poorly run States or to fund areas of State budget expenses that have nothing to do with coronavirus.

We see States like California, Illinois, and New York with big budgets, high taxes, and tons of debt. Contrast that with States like Florida, where we made the hard fiscal decisions to pay off debt and live within our means. Floridians should not be punished and forced to backfill the budgets of these States.

I have a chart here that shows what has happened as a result—I just picked out three States—of their fiscal mismanagement. From 1985 to 2018, you can see here that Florida gained significant population while these poorly managed States lost population. You can see that in Florida we watched our budget and didn't keep borrowing more money. We lived within our means. You can look at our debt—\$27 billion. When you look at California, it is \$155 billion; New York, \$148 billion, and Illinois, \$67 billion.

You see what people are doing. They are leaving these high-tax States. Look at the personal income taxes and look at their attitude toward business. These are the three worst States for business. The Tax Foundation shows how poorly they do with their tax policy.

If you look at what has happened, people have left these States and moved their income to Florida and other lower tax States and more business-oriented States. I am completely opposed to bailing out these States.

Now, the difficulty in my colleague's proposal is that it is very difficult how you decide what is going to be used for one expense in a State budget or another expense in a State budget. Let's not forget that this year's Federal budget deficit will be the largest in the history of our Nation—the largest in the history of our Nation—in excess of the cumulative deficits for the first 200 years of our country's existence.

As my colleague said, we will end the year with an excess of \$25 trillion worth of Federal debt. More than ever, I think my colleague will agree with me that we have to be focused and very careful with our taxpayer dollars.

I am very supportive of continuing to get needed resources to the communities and first responders in need.

That is why, when the Senate passed the CARES Act, we wisely placed limitations on how this money could be spent. We need to maintain those guardrails to ensure that the country can continue on a path to recovery.

For these reasons, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO KYLE HOPKINS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, as we all know, it has been an extraordinarily challenging time for our great Nation, a time that has been painful for so many of our fellow Americans.

It has also been a time when people across the country have given so much to their communities, to their States, and to their neighbors. And, as you know, we are a great nation. We are a kind nation. We are a proud nation, and we are a resilient Nation.

This pandemic has been testing the character of our country, and I believe that we are passing the test as Americans. I believe that because I see it everywhere. I certainly see it in my State, the great State of Alaska. People are passing out food, doing what they can for the elderly, tending to those in need. We are seeing this all across our Nation.

We see millions of our fellow citizens—people whom we all have the privilege of representing here in the Senate—stepping up with purpose and resolve. We see a greater appreciation for the dignity and the value of our workers who are on the frontlines of helping us get through this pandemic.

I was recently home in my State. The rule in Alaska is if you travel from the outside, when you get to Alaska, you have a very strict 14-day quarantine. I was quarantined with my wife and three daughters, hunkered down in Anchorage.

Yet I was also able to still appreciate what was happening with so many of our fellow citizens, especially frontline workers who are helping Alaska power through this crisis. So many of them are working day in and day out to ensure that our grocery stores are stocked, that the goods are transported, that buildings are maintained, that our telecommunication systems are running, that our airplanes are flying, that our hospitals are open, that our healthcare workers can give care, and that our extraordinary teachers are finding creative ways to teach our kids. The list goes on and on. It is happening in every State across the Nation.

Last week, I decided to give an impromptu Alaskan of the Week speech in my backyard. It wasn't here on the Senate floor the way we usually do it and the way we are doing it today. I was highlighting these workers. Many of them are part of the Teamsters

Local 959, led by third-generation teamster Gary Dixon. I want to say thank you to them again.

We talk a lot about people who are telecommuting. That is great. It is important to get us through this pandemic, but we also know there are a lot of people who can't do that. They are really our national heroes right now—essential workers on the frontlines, keeping our economies and our supply lines open, moving, robust.

Now that I am back in DC and the Senate is open again—finally, open again—and the business of the Senate is continuing, so does our Alaskan of the Week series from the floor of the Senate. It is one of my favorite times of the week, when I get to focus on a special Alaskan or a group of Alaskans who made Alaska such a great and unique place. I think the Presiding Officer likes it a lot, too.

I had intended, as I mentioned, on my Alaskan of the Week speech here coming back, to focus on more of these frontline workers who are doing so much in our States and so much in our country to get us through this pandemic. However, some really interesting and, I think, exciting news, broke on Monday in our State, as big news born of a tragic situation. And for that reason, I thought we would have a different focus on our Alaskan of the Week.

The Alaskan of the Week this week is an intrepid Alaska reporter, Kyle Hopkins, who led coverage in our local paper, the Anchorage Daily News, that earned him the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for public service. It is probably the most prestigious award in all American journalism—the prize of prizes.

Kyle Hopkins, an Alaska reporter, won that on Monday. He won it for a 17-story series called “Lawless,” about the public safety crisis of rural Alaska and the horrendous issue of sexual assault and domestic violence in our State.

As we all know, we are confronting a pandemic in our country. I live in a great State, but we have a lot of social challenges, just like a lot of States. We are confronting this pandemic right now nationally. My State has been confronting an epidemic of domestic violence and sexual abuse that has been going on for years—decades, generations.

Kyle's series combined dogged reporting and meticulous fact-checking with the utmost sensitivity that a subject like this requires, which is not an easy task at all. It was, according to the Pulitzer committee, riveting public service reporting. It was so much more than that. I will tell you that it was very, very important to the State of Alaska.

Let me tell you a little bit about our Alaskan of the Week, Kyle Hopkins, and what made him very qualified to write this series and why it had such an impact. And I believe—maybe, I should say I hope—it is beginning to bring changes to our public safety sys-

tem and, most importantly, to the unfortunate culture that we have in our State that spawns this kind of abuse and violence.

Kyle was born in beautiful Sitka, AK. That is in Southeast Alaska. His father was a teacher who came from California to teach the children of logging camp workers at a time when the southeast part of our State had a very vital timber industry. The family moved back to California after a few years, but then back to Alaska again, and then away and then back again. Sitka, Kake, Skagway—two small towns, one village—are all in Alaska's beautifully gorgeous southeast. For Kyle, the towns provided the backdrop of a magical childhood—spruce trees that seemed to rise to the clouds, aquatic universes and tidal basins, fish to catch, towering totem poles. High school was all about basketball for him, as it is for so many Alaskan high schoolers and kids. Traveling for tournaments in Alaska is a unique experience, requiring trips on small bush planes.

Kyle remembered seeing the planes and the ferries: “I remember thinking I was lucky to see and do these things.” He knew that even as a young man. He went to the University of Alaska Fairbanks for college, searching for a subject that allowed him to read a lot. He had an adviser that recommended a journalism class. Well, the rest, you could say, is history.

During college, he had a host of internships across the State in journalism, covering business, politics, sports, and crime—all the usual beats—and with some of our best journalism and media establishments, like the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, before moving to Anchorage to work for the Anchorage Press, a weekly paper; then, to KTUU, Channel 2, our big TV station in Alaska; and, then, to where he is now, the Anchorage Daily News.

Throughout all of his reporting, a few things constantly struck him. One is that we are a very big State, but also how few people even in Alaska had ever been to a village in our State. They didn't know the challenges and the beauty of what we call rural Alaska, the soul of Alaska. More than 200 villages dot our State, most of which are not connected by any roads or infrastructure.

He was always struck and increasingly disturbed by the challenge that I mentioned at the outset of my remarks—these very high rates of sexual violence that we have in Alaska. Depending on how you measure it, it is at least three times the national average—three times the national average.

Just like so many of us in Alaska, he assumed that someday the adults, the people in charge, would do something about it, until he realized at a certain point in his life that he was an adult and he had two children, two girls, with his wife Rebecca Palsha, another intrepid reporter in Alaska, and he wanted to make Alaska a better place

not only for his girls but for all other children across our State, a State that he knows and loves.

So the time was right to tackle this issue, and the time was right for another reason throughout the State. There was a more open discussion about this dark issue, this black mark on Alaska, the issue of sexual assault.

Brave women had started coming forward to tell their stories. A statewide initiative that I was part of called Choose Respect was launched over a decade ago trying to address cultural changes and then the “Me Too” movement came, and more and more people were beginning to share their stories of trauma and abuse and to have the courage to do it—because it takes courage.

Kyle not only captured many of those voices, he also began to dig into the larger issues of generational trauma and an issue that is so important in our State, the lack of law enforcement in many of these places, in so many small villages across Alaska. He did it all the while by capturing the complexities of a multitiered public safety system in Alaska. Working with ProPublica, he traveled throughout the State, dug through reams of documents, talked to dozens and dozens of survivors, perpetrators, police officers, lawyers, you name it.

Let me try to capture the breadth and depth and heartache of his 17-part series told by just a few headlines. These are some of the headlines of the stories in the Anchorage Daily News: one, “Discussing Alaska’s history of sexual violence is one step toward seeking solutions;” another headline, “Lawless: One in three Alaska villages have no local police;” another headline, “Dozens of convicted criminals have been hired as cops in rural Alaska. Sometimes, they’re the only applicants;” another headline: “She leapt from a van on the Kenai Peninsula to escape her rapist. Then she waited 18 years for an arrest.” You get the picture.

Let me summarize the opening to one of the stories, a first-person piece headlined, “Why we’re investigating sexual violence in Alaska,” and it tells Alaskans why this series is delving into this very, very difficult topic. It is a story—a horrible story—of a very young girl in one of our villages who vanished from the playground, found later sexually abused, murdered, and it rips your heart out.

These are the kinds of stories that I have certainly heard about and tried to address in my time in public service in Alaska. These are the stories that haunt us as Alaskans. They have haunted countless Alaskans: of course, survivors, victims, their families, leaders, good citizens, good people. They are difficult and shocking stories to tell, but they need to be told, they must be told, and that is what Kyle Hopkins did, and that is why he earned the Pulitzer Prize. These are the kinds of stories that Attorney General Barr

confronted when he came to Alaska last May, his first trip to any State in the country after he was confirmed as our new Attorney General.

Before his confirmation hearing, Senator MURKOWSKI and I had both invited him to come to Alaska. We talked to him in detail about these challenges, and then we did something that I think mattered, and, again, it gives a sense of why this series was so important. We started sending the Attorney General some of Kyle Hopkins’ stories of this 17-part series, the ones that he had written at this time.

So the Attorney General knew before he even got here some of the challenges because of this reporting. Attorney General Barr actually came to our State for almost 5 days—a long visit—to hear from survivors, law enforcement, lawyers, meeting dozens of Alaskans throughout the State who have worked on these issues—some without a voice, without help from the Federal Government, many Tribal members. It was a really important trip.

He was given a beautiful kuspuk as a gift, and when he left, he took a piece of Alaska with him in his heart. I am convinced of that. As a matter of fact, I talked to him about Alaska yesterday on the phone and this very series. He still wears the kuspuk, by the way. He says it makes him look trim.

Shortly after returning to DC, he began to focus with the Department of Justice on some of these big issues, declaring a public safety emergency in rural Alaska and starting to free up significant resources to improve public safety in our State’s rural communities.

So the funding helps, and it is already being put to good use, but this is a story not just about money. As a matter of fact, that is not even the important issue. The important issue is culture. We desperately need a cultural change on these issues in Alaska that have been going on for way too long, and that is another reason why Kyle’s work is so important, because you can’t change the culture if you don’t know how broken it is.

Will it work? Does he think things will change? “I wouldn’t presume to know,” he said, when my team caught up with him on Tuesday, a day after the Pulitzer Prize was announced, already hard at work on another story, by the way.

“I hope things change,” he said. “That’s one of the goals of the series . . . But if nothing changes, at least people will know about the injustice in our system . . . and if it’s going to continue, if we’re going to allow this to continue, it should be with our knowledge.” That is his quote.

“This is my place,” Kyle added, talking about Alaska. “It’s an awesome place and I don’t want to live anyplace else. But things are wrong. And it shouldn’t be for the next generation, for my girls and other girls. If there’s something we can do about it, we should do it.” That is his quote.

And of course, he is right. We should do it, and many of us in Alaska—really, thousands of us in Alaska—are committed to this cause and have been committed to the cause for a long time. I believe Kyle’s work is going to help a lot in that regard.

I want to thank the Anchorage Daily News for supporting this series, to all the staff who worked on the series, to the owners, the Binkleys. Thanks to the Pulitzer committee for recognizing the importance of this series, and thank you, Kyle, for your hard work and determination.

Congratulations, again, on winning the Pulitzer Prize, and probably even more prestigious than winning the Pulitzer Prize for the United States, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

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## EXECUTIVE SESSION

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### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of all nominations on the Secretary’s desk for the Coast Guard, that the nominations be confirmed, and motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

##### ON THE COAST GUARD

\*PN1379 COAST GUARD nominations (257) beginning JASON A. ACUNA, and ending DAVID J. ZWIRBLIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

\*PN1571 COAST GUARD nominations (10) beginning JENNIFER J. CONKLIN, and ending GENARO A. RUOCCO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

\*PN1572 COAST GUARD nominations (160) beginning RYAN G. ANGELO, and ending JEFFREY S. ZAMARIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

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### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN1709 and the Senate proceed to consideration of that nomination.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The bill clerk read the nomination of Brett P. Giroir, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Giroir nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, freedom of the press is a fundamental human right, a foundational pillar of democracy, and an indispensable check on authoritarian overreach. Over the past months, as we have collectively come to appreciate a new understanding of "essential workers," we have witnessed once again how essential the work journalists do is to maintaining our democracy. From Wuhan, China, to conflict zones in Venezuela, to cities and towns in the United States, journalists are risking their lives to report, investigate, and keep people informed on the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, responses to this global crisis have also reminds us that press freedom is under assault across the globe, including in the United States. Fearful of negative coverage of their capacity to protect their citizens and address a global health crisis, autocrats and other governmental figures around the world have focused their attention on concealing information. As journalists fight to advance truth and objectivity under dire circumstances, far too many governments have responded with verbal attacks and prison sentences. Today, we applaud the work and the courage of all those involved in bringing stories from around the world to our fingertips.

Amidst the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries across the world from Algeria to Zimbabwe have imposed restrictions and threatened journalists for their work. As they do when credible, reliable, and timely information is an essential commodity, journalists have persisted.

In China, in an effort to educate his community and the world about its po-

tential threat, Chen Qiushi documented the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, China, in dozens of videos online. On February 6, 2020, Chen's family and friends lost contact with him, and he is presumed to have been disappeared by the CCP.

In Niger, journalist Kaka Touda Mamne Goni reported on a suspected COVID-19 case, was arrested by police on March 5, 2020, and faces up to 3 years in prison on charges of "dissemination of data likely to disturb the public order."

In Venezuela, a group of masked police agents detained freelance journalist Darvinson Rojas on March 21, 2020, and interrogated Rojas about his reporting on COVID-19 cases in the state of Miranda. Rojas remains in detention.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has spurred new restrictions and harassment, these stories of abuse and resilience are nothing new in the field of journalism. Since 1992, the Committee to Project Journalists has reported 1,369 journalists killed around the world, including at least 25 killed in 2019. Last year also represented the 14th year in a row that Freedom House has noted a global decline in press freedom. As of April 20, 2020, at least 299 journalists were imprisoned for their work worldwide.

Of course, the global decline in press freedom and access is not limited to foreign lands. In the United States, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the struggle of local news organizations to stay afloat. The shuttering of local print publications has left rural populations and marginalized communities without critical sources of information and has chipped away at the foundation of the U.S. free press.

From the White House, President Trump continues to target journalists and the media, referring to journalism as "an evil propaganda machine" and the free press as the "enemy of the people." Most recently and severely, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration restricted most on-the-record access to administration officials and reportedly instructed all officials, including scientific and medical experts, to have public statements cleared through Vice President PENCE.

This episode is unfortunately the latest in an ongoing saga. Countries around the world have followed President Trump's lead in attacking journalism as "fake news." Between January 2017 and May 2019, at least 26 countries have enacted or introduced laws restricting access and media in the name of "fake news." In attacking the media, President Trump not only undermines the hard-hitting work journalists in the United States do to hold our leaders accountable and keep the public informed, but provides foreign leaders with the permission and vocabulary to do the same.

In spite of the unprecedented assault on the free press, journalists continue to take significant risks in the pursuit

of truth and transparency. In January 2020, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists revealed how Isabel dos Santos amassed one of Africa's largest fortunes in Angola, one of the world's poorest countries, through embezzlement and corruption using a network of companies and subsidiaries. In May 2019, Caixin journalists reported on business and government actions that resulted in the 2019 Jiangsu Tianjiayi Chemical Plant explosion in China that killed 78 people and injured over 600. Journalists have also continued to report on the situation of Uyghurs and other minorities held in detention centers in China's Xinjiang region, including new revelations from hundreds of pages of leaked CCP documents published by the New York Times in November 2019.

I join the international community in honoring and defending the brave journalists seeking to report on the truth and tell the stories that deserve to be told. Over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers had the foresight to recognize the importance of a free press to a democracy, enshrining it in our First Amendment. Today, that importance cannot be overstated. Recognizing that societies where informed citizens can hold their governments accountable are more stable, secure, and prosperous, we have a responsibility to stand up for the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and a free press.

This week, I introduced a resolution commemorating World Press Freedom Day. The resolution highlights increasing threats to freedoms of the press and expression worldwide, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, reaffirms the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reiterates freedom of the press as a priority of the United States in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance. On this World Press Freedom Day, I call on the Trump administration and our world leaders to recommit to advancing press freedom, protecting journalists, and embracing the important role they play in a healthy and secure society.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, which was this past Sunday, and to celebrate the brave journalists all over the world who safeguard the values of truth, democracy, transparency, and justice through their work. Every year, we set aside this day to reaffirm our commitment to the free press. This year, however, is a little bit different. This year, we are in the midst of a brutal global public health crisis. One of the reasons that the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked so much havoc—taking hundreds of thousands of lives and devastating the economy—is that people with power have propagated misinformation about the virus. In the words of the World Health Organization, we are witnessing an "info-demic." Now, more than ever, it is vital that the public receives the truth, and that means protecting the

free press. We are relying on the press to bring us crucial, often life-saving, information about testing sites, shelter-in-place orders, school closures, government aid, and how to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. That is why many States, Maryland among them, have designated local news outlets as “essential businesses” that are allowed to keep operating despite social distancing policies.

In a noble effort to keep the public informed, many local media outlets have removed their paywalls for COVID-19-related news, forfeiting desperately needed revenue. Meanwhile, COVID-19 continues to place immense economic pressure on local news outlets and jeopardize their ability to function at all. Dozens of local publications have had to furlough reporters, reduce their publication frequency, or drop their print editions completely. This financial nightmare comes on the heels of more than a decade of hardship for local news.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic is not the only threat facing journalists today. All around the globe, reporters face harassment and persecution for their attempts to spread the truth and hold leaders accountable. Reporters Without Borders has determined that at least 229 journalists worldwide currently are imprisoned for their work. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 25 journalists were killed around the world in 2019, and at least six journalists and media professionals have been killed in the first 4 months of 2020 alone. Corrupt and powerful governments and individuals understand that free expression is a mighty tool against injustice, so they go to horrible lengths to stifle it.

One courageous reporter who was murdered for pursuing the truth was Washington Post journalist and U.S. resident Jamal Khashoggi. The Central Intelligence Agency concluded with high confidence and the Senate unanimously approved a resolution stating that Saudi Government officials executed and dismembered Mr. Khashoggi in 2018 at the behest of Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman. To this day, however, justice for this crime remains elusive. The Global Magnitsky Act, which I authored with the late Senator John McCain to combat human rights violations like this one, requires the U.S. administration to declassify its findings regarding who was responsible for Mr. Khashoggi's death and to impose additional sanctions on the culpable parties. President Trump has refused to do so.

This failure to stand up for an American journalist an authoritarian regime silenced is just one example of how the Trump administration has turned its back on the freedom of the press. The President and his supporters have continuously tried to demonize and delegitimize news outlets whose reporting upsets them, to the point of labeling the media an “enemy of the Amer-

ican people.” As the illustrious journalist Edward R. Murrow so famously noted 66 years ago in responding to then-Senator Joe McCarthy's vile smear tactics and intimidation:

We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. We must remember always that accusation is not proof and that conviction depends upon evidence and due process of law. We will not walk in fear, one of another. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason, if we dig deep in our history and our doctrine, and remember that we are not descended from fearful men—not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate, and to defend causes that were, for the moment, unpopular.

When the leader of the United States, a country devoted to principles of liberty and democracy, flouts the truth in this way, it reverberates all across the world to the detriment of free expression everywhere. Between 2016 and 2019, the number of journalists imprisoned on spurious charges of disseminating so-called fake news more than tripled globally.

We Americans feel the impact of this vilification of the press much closer to home, too. I will never forget learning about the fatal shooting at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, MD, almost 2 years ago. In the most deadly newsroom shooting in American history, a man who was angry that the newspaper accurately and merely reported his guilty plea in a criminal harassment case stormed into the Gazette office with a gun and killed five people. Those individuals—Gerald Fishman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters—died defending one of the most sacred institutions in our country. They died protecting every American's right to know the truth. But they and hundreds of other journalists worldwide should not have to die in the line of duty.

For the sake of our democracy and global human rights, we must do everything we can to eliminate the violence and repression news media face. The United States can help lead this effort by loudly voicing our support for the free press as a key component of an informed civil society and a government accountable to its people. That is why I am proud to cosponsor Senator MENENDEZ's resolution in honor of World Press Freedom Day declaring the need for a truly free press and condemning threats to the freedom of expression around the world. The resolution applauds the bravery of journalists and media workers and remembers those who have lost their lives in the course of their duties.

We can also demonstrate our commitment to a free press by remembering those journalists and media professionals who have lost their lives in the course of their duties. To that end, Senator PORTMAN and I have introduced a bill, S. 1969, to authorize a national memorial to fallen journalists. The National Capital Region has numerous monuments and memorials to honor those individuals who have helped make our country stronger

since its founding days. Currently missing from that honor roll is a memorial to reporters and other journalists, such as those at the Capital Gazette, who have sacrificed everything to protect the free, open, and transparent society that all people deserve. My hope is that Congress will pass the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act soon. Once we establish this memorial, we will have a visible reminder to pay tribute to these heroes not just once a year, but every day.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, while the Senate was out of session, the American people celebrated the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that historic anniversary.

We first celebrated Earth Day in 1970 when then-Senator Gaylord Nelson brought more than 20 million Americans together to mobilize in defense of our planet. In the half-century since, our Nation has benefitted from a passionate environmental movement that has pushed lawmakers, businesses, and communities to foster a healthier Earth. While this movement has yielded significant progress, we nonetheless must do more to address the gravest threat to our environment: climate change.

I recognize that, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it might be difficult to wrap our heads around a second crisis, but we have an important opportunity here to learn from one global emergency about how to navigate another.

The first lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic: We must listen to experts. Public health experts have long forecast the risk of a viral pandemic. Still, our leaders failed to prepare for COVID-19 and even denied the magnitude of the threat we faced when it was at our doorstep. The novel coronavirus has now claimed over 72,000 lives in the United States, a death toll higher than any other country.

We are witnessing a parallel problem with climate change. For decades, experts have warned that human-caused climate change is heating the Earth. Ninety-seven percent of the world's scientists agree on this. Scientists are no longer just predicting the future implications of this crisis; they are pointing out the very real consequences of climate change that have already arrived.

These include the rise in extreme weather events like floods, hurricanes, and wildfires that we have experienced across the United States in recent years. In Maryland, we have seen communities like Ellicott City devastated by flash flooding from increased rainfall. Our State's many miles of low-lying coast make us particularly vulnerable to high tide flooding and storm surge. The longer we wait to address climate change, the more natural disasters we will face.



Nevertheless, many of our Nation's leaders continue to ignore and deny the science of climate change. President Trump has nominated several individuals to oversee environmental regulations, despite their alarming lack of expertise. Federal agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture have suppressed climate science while carrying out crucial environmental research. And the Trump administration has advanced a policy agenda that unravels critical environmental protections.

Right now, we need to be doing everything possible to protect our planet, not make it more vulnerable.

Experts tell us that we have a short and critical window for action before the climate crisis becomes far more dire. According to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we have 10 years to reduce global carbon emissions by 45 percent, or the Earth's ecosystems will likely begin to collapse. That will mean even greater sea-level rise, more high tide flooding, more devastating hurricanes, more and faster-spreading wildfires, and more global infectious diseases.

It is vital that we listen to experts and take steps to curb the development of climate change before it is too late.

The second lesson: We must work with the international community to tackle this crisis. Much of President Trump's foreign policy seems to rest on the assumption that the United States can become stronger through isolation. But the spread of COVID-19 makes it painfully clear that we are part of a global community and that there are certain threats that we will either overcome together or succumb to together.

Climate change is one such threat. The United States is the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gas. Our failure to improve our environmental practices will have enormous impact on the rest of the world. Likewise, America's long-term security depends on other countries' efforts to protect the environment.

For example, as climate change continues, the number and severity of natural disasters in the United States will increase, which will take a substantial toll on our economy. A report that I requested from the Government Accountability Office shows that the 14 climate disasters in 2018 cost the U.S. at least \$91 billion in damage. And today, taxpayer spending on Federal disaster relief in the U.S. is almost ten times what it was three decades ago.

We need help from our friends around the world in order to avoid these repercussions of climate change. And if we ask for help, we had better be prepared to do our part, too.

It is, therefore, extremely disappointing that President Trump is finalizing the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, which we joined alongside more than 190 other countries in 2016. Parties to the agreement committed to lowering

carbon emissions with investment in clean and renewable energy sources, placing them at the forefront of the fight against climate change. Our Nation's retreat from this agreement undermines our global credibility and leadership and threatens devastating environmental consequences.

I led the U.S. congressional delegation to the conference where the parties originally adopted the Paris Agreement; therefore, I could not stand by and watch that important work be undone. So I introduced a bipartisan resolution expressing support for the agreement and calling on the U.S. to continue working with the global community to address the causes and effects of climate change. It will be up to leaders at the local, State, and national level to ensure that the United States pulls our weight in this worldwide effort.

The third lesson: Meaningful progress is within reach if Americans commit to urgent and bold action. Though it pains me to see the suffering that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing, I have been proud to watch communities across the country make the adjustments required to slow the spread of the virus and keep each other safe. People are staying home, teleworking, helping their kids learn remotely, and isolating from friends and family. Health workers, first responders, and other essential employees are inspiring us with their bravery and dedication. And in Congress, we are working in a bipartisan fashion to pass major legislation that will help us weather this storm.

The resilience of the American people in the face of this public health emergency gives me faith that we can similarly pull together to combat climate change if we recognize it for the life-threatening emergency that it is. After all, the World Health Organization predicts that climate change will kill an additional 241,000 people per year by 2030, and the World Bank estimates that, by 2050, it will force more than 140 million people out of their homes.

The good news is that, unlike with COVID-19, the adaptations that will help us tackle climate change will also create jobs and stimulate our economy. The U.S. clean energy economy employs more than 3.3 million workers, a number that has been on the rise for the last 5 years. Furthermore, producing renewable energy is cheaper in the long run than continuing to rely on coal. By 2025, almost every existing coal plant in the country will cost more to operate than building replacement wind and solar plants nearby. And crucially, energy efficient infrastructure will strengthen communities by lowering the cost of utilities, improving residents' health, and increasing economic development.

For my part, I will keep working as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to advocate for laws that protect Americans

by protecting our planet. This Congress, I was able to get the first ever climate title included in the surface transportation reauthorization bill in order to reduce vehicular emissions, the single largest source of U.S. carbon pollution. I have also cosponsored bills that will lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and increase the development of renewable energy technologies by supporting the wind and solar industries.

As always, I will continue to defend the vital wetlands and marshes of the Chesapeake Bay. As climate change causes severe weather patterns to increase, these ecosystems will act as pollution filters and buffers from storm surge and flooding, minimizing the damage to Marylanders' homes and businesses. The Chesapeake Bay restoration program is a model for the local, State, and Federal cooperation that we need to reach our environmental goals. I am confident that we can address the climate crisis as a whole in an equally collaborative manner.

Now is the time for an "all hands on deck" approach. Just as we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans must urgently work together, on Earth Day and every day, to slow the causes and consequences of climate change. If we do things right, then perhaps on the 100th anniversary of Earth Day, someone will be standing here, thanking her predecessors for protecting the Earth and looking forward to many more golden anniversaries on our beautiful home planet.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE BOUSTANY FAMILY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to tell the hopeful story of the Boustany family, Lebanese immigrants who arrived in Providence, RI, 100 years ago next month. The family's history exemplifies the extraordinary contributions that generations of immigrants have made to American life.

The Boustany family's journey began in Deir al-Qamar, Lebanon, a village southeast of Beirut. Life in Lebanon was difficult in those days. The people of Deir al-Qamar had seen it all: war, famine, pandemics, and even swarms of locusts. Michel and Yahout Boustany lost eight children to difficulties in childbirth and illnesses, and a ninth was tragically kidnapped. The surviving members of the grief-stricken family resolved to leave their native country to start a new life in a land of opportunity.

Getting to America wouldn't be without heartbreaking setbacks. The departure was delayed 6 long years due to World War I. Sadly, Michel passed away unexpectedly not long before the family was to make the voyage. Yahout, and two of her sons, Francis, age 11, and Frem, age 17, resolved to carry on with the plan to emigrate.

The Boustany family left for the first leg of the journey from Beirut on a



Fabre Line steamship bound for Marseille, France. In Marseille, they boarded Fabre Lines' SS *Providence* on its maiden voyage to Providence, RI.

The family landed at the Port of Providence in June 1920. According to an article printed the following month in Providence Magazine, the SS *Providence* was welcomed by Rhode Islanders with great fanfare, as it was the largest steamship that had ever traveled up Narragansett Bay. From there, the family boarded a train to Lafayette, LA, where Yahout's two oldest children had already settled.

The Boustany family thrived in America. The children grew up, started families, and became successful entrepreneurs and respected leaders in their community. The first generations passed along their Catholic faith and an exceptional work ethic to their children and grandchildren who would go on to find success of their own in many pursuits. Members of the family have become civic leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and so on. Among them is Vicki Kennedy, an accomplished lawyer and the widow of a giant of the Senate, Ted Kennedy. Vicki is a dear friend to many of us in this Chamber. Dr. Charles Boustany, a retired heart surgeon and former Congressman from Louisiana, is also one of the family.

June 17, 2020 marks 100 years to the day members of the Boustany family first set foot in Providence. Prior to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, their descendants had been planning to travel to Rhode Island to celebrate the centennial of their family's beginning in America. Now, they are considering other ways to mark the anniversary remotely as a family. The Boustany family represents the very best of us: hard-working, generous, and community-minded. I wish them well as they celebrate this joyful occasion.

#### REMEMBERING ROSHELL "MIKE" ANDERSON

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Mr. Roshell "Mike" Anderson, acclaimed journalist for 36 years with the Milwaukee-based television station, WISN-12.

Mike was born in Bogalusa, LA, in 1952 and raised in New Orleans. New Orleans' rich musical culture inspired Mike's life-long passion for R&B that landed him twice on the R&B soul charts in the 1970s with "Snake out of Green Grass" and "Grapevine will Lie Sometimes." His musical accomplishments continued into the early 1990s and helped spawn a unique brand of journalistic storytelling.

Mike attended Louisiana State University and the Career Academy School of Broadcast Journalism in Atlanta, GA. He started his career as a disc jockey in various Atlanta radio stations in 1970 and got his start in television in Seattle, WA, in 1979. When Mike took the job at WISN in Milwaukee in 1981, he planned to stay 3

years. He retired from the station 36 years later in 2017.

Mike's journalism career spanned nearly four decades and six U.S. Presidencies. He was proud to have interviewed Richard Nixon, George Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. But Mike's most powerful work involved telling powerful and moving stories about the Milwaukee community. He is perhaps best known for his two award-winning documentaries on inner-city violence, "Children in the Line of Fire" and "Solutions to Violence."

Five years after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Mike returned to his home city to cover the city's devastation and its slow process of rehabilitation. Through his interviews with local residents, Mike found stories of hope, resilience, and many sobering reminders that much work was left to be done. As always, Mike brought his unique style of warmth, kindness, and optimism to even the darkest issues and events.

After breaking racial and class barriers, he mentored other journalists of color and worked to celebrate their success through his work with the Wisconsin Black Media Association and Milwaukee's annual Black Excellence Awards.

Mike's straightforward style and commitment to fairness led to a deep sense of trust on the part of his viewers. He will long be remembered for telling the stories of Milwaukee honestly and with a deep connection to the community.

Mike Anderson's most lasting legacy, however, is that he was beloved by the Milwaukee community for not only being a great reporter people could trust, he was a good person whose kindness will be missed.

#### REMEMBERING EUGENE KANE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Eugene Albert Kane, a renowned, passionate, and fearless journalist who for more than 30 years spoke truth to power and forced his readers to confront the uncomfortable realities of racism and injustice in Milwaukee, in Wisconsin, and in America.

Eugene was born to Eugene Albert Kane, Sr., and Hattie (Freeman) Kane. He grew up in North Philadelphia and graduated from Temple University where he majored in journalism and minored in Black studies. In 1984, Eugene moved to Milwaukee to take a job with the Milwaukee Journal, the precursor to today's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. There, he wrote what would become a very well-known column, "Raising Kane." The title's insinuation of stirring the pot and causing what civil rights icon Congressman JOHN LEWIS has termed "good trouble," was indeed, intentional.

His early personal experiences with discrimination shaped his passion for equality and his need to speak publicly about racism. His grandfather, seri-

ously ill with pneumonia, died after being turned away from hospital emergency rooms because of the color of his skin. As a teenager attending a mostly White school, Eugene remembered a fellow student he considered a friend, who taunted and berated him with vile racist insults. Racism followed him into his professional life as well. He recounted times when it was next to impossible to obtain interviews from people in mostly White settings and was even falsely accused of being part of a pickpocket scheme while covering the Green Bay Packers in 1997 during Super Bowl XXXI in New Orleans. These experiences and others inspired him to give voice to the systematic racism saw and the lack of economic opportunities facing African Americans in Milwaukee and the country. Rather than shying away from the unvarnished truth of racism and social injustice in America, he walked right towards it, pen and notebook in hand.

As a Black journalist who elevated the voice of Black Milwaukee in a column read predominantly by a White audience, Eugene's work garnered irritation as well as praise. Even a fellow Wisconsin journalist wondered out loud why the Journal Sentinel would "give this guy a soap box?" He took hateful responses to his column in stride, viewing them as proof his words were landing exactly where they needed to. In fact, he took pride in motivating people to care enough about an issue to disagree with him.

A greater number of readers and colleagues, however, were motivated to praise his work. In 2014, he was inducted into both the Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame and the Milwaukee Press Club Hall of Fame. In 1992, he was awarded the Knight Fellowship at Stanford University. He also received national recognition, winning first place for Best General Column from the Society of Professional Journalists in 2000 and two first-place National Headliner Awards for Best Local Interest Column in 2001 and 2003.

His accomplishments and contributions went beyond the written word. He hosted "Black Nouveau" on Milwaukee Public Television from 2002-2006, taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Marquette University, and served as president of the Wisconsin Black Media Association in 2002.

I am forever grateful that Eugene shared his important perspective throughout his long, storied career. Each step of the way he demonstrated the courage to tell the truth and shine a light on the injustices that were more comfortably left unspoken. This is a true testament to the value he served Wisconsin as a journalist.

Eugene was a vital and honest voice for the Milwaukee community. Call him an agitator if you must. I don't believe he would have it any other way. He said and wrote and needed to be heard and read. Eugene Kane will be missed by so many, but what he said and the words of wisdom he wrote will

not be forgotten to us. They should be, and will be carried on.

REMEMBERING Q. TODD  
DICKINSON

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today, on behalf of myself and Senator COONS, we honor the life and legacy of The Honorable Q. Todd Dickinson. Todd was a great friend to our offices, and we often relied on him for impartial counsel as we endeavored to reform patent law. Todd was incredibly generous with his time and his intimate knowledge of patent law, and we will greatly miss him.

Todd had an immeasurable impact on our patent system during a career spanning more than four decades. Todd served as the first Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the Patent and Trademark Office from 1999 to 2001, where he transformed the USPTO into a more modern and independent agency. Todd also served as executive director of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, where he played an essential role in the enactment of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act.

Todd is survived by his husband, Robert Atkins, and his brother, John Dickinson. Our thoughts and prayers are with Todd's family during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY BIERLY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Kimberly "Kim" Bierly, who will retire this month after 13 years of service to the U.S. Senate. For as long as I have been in the Senate, Kim has served as my regional manager for the North Central Region of Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Lock Haven, Kim gained a wealth of professional experience prior to her Senate service. A student of journalism, Kim graduated from Rider College before becoming a reporter for the Lock Haven Express. She later served as the national marketing director for Penn State University and worked in private sector marketing, before lending her time and talents to my 2006 Senate campaign. Following our victory that year, Kim began her Senate service when I asked her to join my State staff in 2007.

Over the course of these many years, Kim has tirelessly championed the concerns of rural constituents and worked to ensure that their needs were always addressed in my work. She answered thousands of phone calls, attended hundreds of constituent meeting and traveled far and wide across many, many miles to meet people in their own towns. She worked hard to present the views of our State's farming community and conducted me around all my engagements and events throughout the region. It is often said that Kim "knows everyone in Central Pennsylvania," and I can testify that that is true.

Kim has a heart of gold, and she has always watched over all of her colleagues as a kind of "Mother Hen," sending along a kind word of encouragement, placing a personal call, and helping everyone who is in need. As a proud cancer survivor, she proudly ministers to other patients and believes in giving back in return for the many kindnesses bestowed on her during her illness.

For all of her professional accomplishments, Kim has many hobbies and personal pursuits. She is an accomplished knitter—socks are her favorite—who owned her own small business in Centre County for several years called "Main Street Yarn." She is also an animal lover who spent 10 years leading a volunteer golden retriever rescue organization in her free time that saved over 800 dogs. While she misses her goldens "Timber" and "Teddy" every day, she loves to show off pictures of her dog, "Charlie," and her cat, "Caddy." They are her family.

My most enduring memories of Kim are our annual attempts to procure donuts and milkshakes at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and snacking on the wonderful chocolate chip cookies she would bake for the whole team during our staff retreats. Her departure leaves big shoes to fill, but I wish her well as she and her husband, Keith, move on to this next adventure in their lives.

Congratulations, Kim, for a job well done. I am grateful for your service to the country and the Commonwealth, and I wish you the best of luck in your retirement. We will miss you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING NORTH DAKOTA  
STUDENTS RECEIVING THE PRU-  
DENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY  
AWARDS

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor four North Dakota students who have been recognized for their remarkable volunteer service by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

This year's State honorees are Micah Schilittenhardt and Alexis Thompson of Bismarck. Distinguished finalists are Teagen Nicholes of Minot and Amorelle Upton of Fargo.

Micah, a student at Legacy High School, has spent more than 150 hours raising awareness across North Dakota about the benefits of dance for people with Parkinson's disease, while also raising funds for dance lessons, support groups, and research. Alexis, who attends Horizon Middle School, started an annual toy drive which has provided gifts for more than 400 adolescent hospital patients, launched a campaign to increase scoliosis awareness and screening, and organized a support group for girls with curvature of the spine.

Teagen established a food pantry at Erik Ramstad Middle School, along

with contacting local businesses for financial support, spreading awareness about food insecurity and organized schoolwide activities to raise funds and donations. Amorelle, who attends Davies High School, has raised money to benefit the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, has secured donations from local businesses, hosted several fundraising events, and sent more than 300 letters soliciting support from her local community.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995. Their purpose is to impress upon all youth volunteers their contributions are critically important and highly valued and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 25 years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service. It has honored more than 130,000 young volunteers at the local, State, and national level.

These young volunteers inspire all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. I heartily applaud them for their dedication to making their communities better places to live and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. Their actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in their communities and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. Again, congratulations to Micah, Alesis, Teagen, and Amorelle. I fully expect to hear much more from each of them as they emerge as leaders of our next generation.●

RECOGNIZING THE VICTORY  
SEWERS OF SANDERS COUNTY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing the Victory Sewers of Sanders County for volunteering their time to support their community during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

In the face of these challenging times, a group of nearly 45 Montanans in Sanders County have stepped up to sew gowns for the staff of Fork Valley Hospital. Volunteers have also used leftover materials to produce protective masks for our law enforcement and first responders.

The group has made over 90 gowns and over 500 masks, which have been distributed to clinics in Thompson Falls, Hot Springs, and to various emergency service personnel across Sanders County. The Victory Sewers are comprised of Montanans from Plains, Paradise, Thompson Falls, Trout Creek, and Noxon.

It is my honor to recognize the Victory Sewers of Sanders County for their efforts to support our healthcare heroes and those on the frontlines of this pandemic. The compassion and commitment of these extraordinary

Montanans are an inspiration to us all.●

#### REMEMBERING SARKIS TATIGIAN

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator REED, we come to the floor today to ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Mr. Sarkis Tatigian, who began his Navy career at the age of 19 during World War II and didn't end it until he passed away last month at age 97.

At the time of his death, Mr. Tatigian, after nearly 78 years of service, was the longest serving civil servant in the history of the DOD. He was the only WWII sailor still serving in the Navy Department.

Eligible for retirement since 1973, Mr. Tatigian continued to honor America through his faithful service as the Naval Sea Systems Command's, NAVSEA, small business advocate, championing our Navy, our small businesses, and our country.

Mr. Tatigian began his civilian career with the Navy in July 1942 as a junior radio inspector at the naval aircraft factory in the Philadelphia Navy Yard and the Navy Office of Inspector of Naval Aircraft in Linden, NJ. He left his position as an inspector in March 1943 and entered the uniformed Navy as an Active-Duty sailor in April 1943. In June 1944, as an aviation electronics technician's mate, he aided in the development of the Navy's first guided anti-ship munition, the ASM-N-2 "BAT" glide bomb. The BAT became an operational weapon in January 1945 and was used to sink two Japanese warships later that year.

In 1943, Mr. Tatigian began his service at NAVSEA, then called the Bureau of Ordinance. After World War II, he transitioned from the Active-Duty to the civil service working on guided munitions.

In 1951, Mr. Tatigian saw the need to expand the Navy's industrial base and believed that small business was the answer. He developed a small business mobile exhibit that traveled coast to coast, visiting all State capitals and cities with populations exceeding 400,000. For his organizational efforts on the exhibit, Tatigian received congressional recognition. His work expanded the small business industrial base with more than \$100 billion in contracts awarded to diverse, small businesses.

Over his unprecedented career, Mr. Tatigian received numerous awards, including the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award in 2007. In recognition of his exceptional accomplishments in service, the Navy has even named an award after him, the Sarkis Tatigian Small Business Award, which recognizes outstanding performance through organizational culture and command climate.

Mr. Tatigian's life of dedication and service to his country is truly inspirational. On behalf of a grateful nation, we thank you, Mr. Sarkis Tatigian, for

all you have done for our people, our government, and our Navy.●

#### REMEMBERING JOHN A. MEANS

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the life of a great South Carolinian, Lt. Col. John A. Means, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), of Summerville.

John was born on a farm in Kansas on December 11, 1918. In his lifetime, he witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that transformed the world.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and became a pilot in 1943. In 1950, he was called to Active Duty and was deployed to Korea as part of the 6147th Squadron, known as the Mosquitoes. John served in Washington, DC, with the Special Air Missions, SAM, unit, flying dignitaries at home and abroad in Air Force Two. During his time in the SAM outfit, he flew Herbert Hoover, Richard Nixon, Charles Lindbergh, and many others.

He then retired from the military in 1965 with the rank of lieutenant colonel and moved his family to Summerville, SC. After returning to civilian life, he worked as a mechanical engineer at Avcco and as a machine operator at Bosch. He also owned and operated his own service station.

John served his community as a member of the Masons for over 75 years, Scottish Rite, Shriners, and was also president of the Lions Club of Summerville. He also served on the board of directors as vice president of Charleston Mental Health, was an active booster of the Summerville High School Marching Band, and was a founding member and Elder of Dorchester Presbyterian Church.

Though Mr. Means has left us, his legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of many. Mr. Means' patriotism, integrity, dedication, and commitment to serve his country are an inspiration to us all. He will not be forgotten, and I am certain South Carolina will continue to benefit from his labors for generations to come.●

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. BLUNT for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

(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. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3639. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain taxpayers a 2-year carryback of net operating losses and to restore and make permanent the limitation on excess business losses of non-corporate taxpayers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3641. A bill to designate the area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Li Wenliang Plaza", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3642. A bill to mobilize individuals in the United States in the fight against coronavirus by expanding volunteer opportunities in AmeriCorps, expanding employment opportunities at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and utilizing the expertise of Peace Corps volunteer leaders whose service ended on March 15, 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. LOEFFLER (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3643. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain post-graduate health care employees and health professions trainees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment via telemedicine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3644. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the quality of care in skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program and nursing facilities under the Medicare program during the COVID-19 emergency period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3645. A bill to require the release of most aliens detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement during a national emergency related to a communicable disease; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3646. A bill to require the transfer or release of certain individuals in the custody of the United States because of their risk of exposure during a national emergency, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3647. A bill to prohibit price gouging for necessary products during Federally declared national emergencies or disasters; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3648. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide for a high-speed broadband deployment initiative; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3649. A bill to promote competition, to preserve the ability of local governments to provide broadband capacity and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 3650. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to deem employees of urban Indian organizations as part of the Public Health Service for certain purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 3651. A bill to prohibit school food authorities and local educational agencies from collecting unpaid school meal fees during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KATINE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. JONES, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. REED, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3652. A bill to allow 2020 recovery rebates with respect to qualifying children over the age of 16 and other dependents; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KATINE, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3653. A bill to allow tax credits to State and local governments for required paid sick leave and required paid family and medical leave; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3654. A bill to provide that certain public hospitals are eligible for loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3655. A bill to provide funding for targeted purchases of qualified agricultural products from producers that rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 3656. A bill to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3657. A bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins and

individual amino acids for digestive and inherited metabolic disorders under Federal health programs and private health insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 3658. A bill to establish an Office of Equal Rights and Community Inclusion at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. KATINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. JONES, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. REED)):

S. 3659. A bill to provide State and local workforce and career and technical education systems the support to respond to the COVID-19 national emergency; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KATINE, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3660. A bill to provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3661. A bill to amend section 151 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 to allow danger pay for the U.S. Marshals Service; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3662. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide a civil action against a foreign state for deliberate concealment or distortion of information with respect to an international public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3663. A bill to protect the privacy of consumers' personal health information, proximity data, device data, and geolocation data during the coronavirus public health crisis; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 3664. A bill to enhance the independence of Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SHELBY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. JONES, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. KATINE):

S. 3665. A bill to amend the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rural health care by ensuring fairness in Medicare hospital payments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 3666. A bill to fund grants for the immediate deployment of temporary wireless broadband service on Tribal lands and Hawaiian Home Lands, to provide emergency special temporary authority to use electromagnetic spectrum for the provision of wireless broadband service on Tribal lands and Hawaiian Home Lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3667. A bill to require the establishment of a repatriation task force during major infectious disease outbreaks, to authorize additional paid leave for employees of certain independent agencies involved in the conduct of foreign affairs, and to extend the application period and use of certain special immigrant visas; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3668. A bill to assist COVID-19 recovery efforts in Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KATINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3669. A bill to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3670. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River System in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REED:

S. 3671. A bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to provide additional funding for States, Tribal Governments, and local communities due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S.J. Res. 71. A joint resolution withdrawing approval of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 564. A resolution commemorating May 8, 2020, the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the day on which the Allies achieved victory in Europe during World War II, and honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force for the invasion of Europe in 1944 and the 34th President of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MORAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KATINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 565. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 566. A resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Katyn Massacre; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KATINE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 567. A resolution commending career professionals at the Department of

State for their extensive efforts to repatriate United States citizens and legal permanent residents during the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 636

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 636, a bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section.

S. 738

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support.

S. 1720

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1720, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate sale of State-inspected meat and poultry, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2438

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2438, a bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

S. 3419

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3419, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide for the establishment of a trust for the benefit of all unpaid cash sellers of livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 3486

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3486, a bill to improve State, local, and tribal public health security.

S. 3563

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3563, a bill to modify nutrition programs to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019, and for other purposes.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3607, a bill to extend public safety officer death benefits to public safety officers whose death is caused by COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. 3608

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3608, a bill to amend the CARES Act to provide flexibility in use of funds by States, Indian Tribes, and municipalities.

S. 3610

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3610, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow health share pools to be deemed an employer under section 3(5) of such Act for purposes of offering a group health plan or group health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 68, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 510

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 510, a resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. REED:

S. 3671. A bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to provide additional funding for States, Tribal Governments, and local communities due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, in order to build on a key provision I authored in the CARES Act, which provided states with \$150 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), I am introducing the State and Local Emergency Stabilization Fund Act so that States and local governments can continue to be supported as they shoulder the costs of battling the corona virus.

The State and Local Emergency Stabilization Fund Act would cut needless red tape that was bureaucratically imposed by the Trump Administration, which is constraining States from spending the CRF money that Congress unanimously approved to save lives and help rescue our economy. My legislation makes it clear that lost revenue is a cost. It also extends the time hori-

zon States have to spend the money in order to ensure they have the flexibility to equitably allocate and disburse the funding and help communities combat COVID-19 and recover.

Unfortunately, the costs of responding to the coronavirus and keeping our economy afloat have only increased as result of this Administration's inability to formulate and execute a public health strategy based on facts and science, or implement effectively the resources and programs Congress authorized to keep our economy afloat. To meet these increasing costs, this bill would provide State and local governments an additional \$600 billion in funding. The bill includes a protective \$5 billion small State minimum, treats the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as States, and reserves funds for territories and Tribes. In addition, \$59 billion would be allocated to States based on their relative coronavirus infection rates, and \$205 billion would be reserved elusively for local governments.

State and local governments are being pushed to the financial brink by skyrocketing costs and plunging revenue, and they need stability in order to have a chance at recovery. While some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have tried to paint this issue as a 'red State vs. blue State' problem, all fifty States are suffering and need financial relief from the Federal government to prevent massive layoffs, cuts to needed services, and future tax hikes.

In addition, on May 6, 2020, CNBC reported "[p]rivate payrolls hemorrhaged more than 20 million jobs in April as companies sliced workers amid a corona virus-induced shutdown that took most of the U.S. economy offline, according to a report Wednesday from ADP. In all, the decline totaled 20,236,000—easily the worst loss in the survey's history going back to 2002 but not as bad as the 22 million that economists surveyed by Dow Jones had been expecting. The previous record was 834,665 in February 2009 amid the financial crisis and accompanying Great Recession."

Mr. President, the scale and pace of our public health emergency and the impact it has having on our economy requires each of us to swiftly set aside ideology and work urgently to address these generational challenges head on. Failure to respond in a timely manner will only result in more layoffs and a longer recession. It will mean States and local governments will be left unable to provide needed health, education, public safety, and sanitation services, just when those services are needed most. Any economic recovery needs reliable State and local governments that provide the business certainty that make our attractive to businesses and investors throughout the world.

Nobody is immune from this crisis. Congress should come together, do the right thing, and provide States the resources they need to save lives and livelihoods and get the economy working again. I urge each of my colleagues to join me in working to enact this legislation so that we can get more critical federal resources to our States and local governments who are on the front lines of battling this public health and economic emergency.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS ON  
MAY 6, 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—DESIGNATING MARCH 2020, AS “NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. STABENBOW, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Mr. JONES, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 563

Whereas National Women’s History Month recognizes and spreads awareness of the importance of women in the history of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, whether in their homes, in their workplaces, in schools, in the courts, or during wartime, women have fought for themselves, their families, and all people of the United States;

Whereas, even from the early days of the history of the United States, Abigail Adams urged her husband to “Remember the Ladies” when representatives met for the Continental Congress in 1776;

Whereas women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the United States;

Whereas women led the efforts to secure suffrage and equal opportunities for women, and also served in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, labor movements, civil rights movements, and other causes to create a more fair and just society for all;

Whereas suffragists wrote, marched, were arrested, and ultimately succeeded in achieving—

(1) the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States,

which provides, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”; and

(2) the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), which extended the protection of the right to vote to women of color and language minorities;

Whereas, in 2020, the United States celebrates the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees women the constitutional right to vote;

Whereas women have been and continue to be leaders in the forefront of social change efforts, business, science, government, math, art, literature, music, film, athletics, and other fields;

Whereas women now represent approximately half of the workforce of the United States;

Whereas women once were routinely barred from attending medical schools in the United States, but now are enrolling in medical schools in the United States at higher numbers than men;

Whereas women previously were turned away from law school, but now represent approximately half of law students in the United States;

Whereas, since the American Revolution, women have been vital to the mission of the Armed Forces, with more than 200,000 women serving on active duty and 2,000,000 women veterans representing every branch of service;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 women own businesses in the United States;

Whereas Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives in 1916 and Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas was the first woman elected to the United States Senate in 1932;

Whereas Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was the first woman to serve in both Houses of Congress;

Whereas, in 2020, a record total of 131 women are serving in Congress, including 105 women in the House of Representatives and 26 women in the Senate;

Whereas President Jimmy Carter recognized March 2 through 8, 1980, as “National Women’s History Week”;

Whereas, in 1987, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced the first joint resolution to pass Congress designating “Women’s History Month”;

Whereas, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential proclamation proclaiming March 1987 as “Women’s History Month”; and

Whereas, despite the advancements of women in the United States, much remains to be done to ensure that women realize their full potential as equal members of society in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2020 as “National Women’s History Month”;

(2) recognizes the celebration of National Women’s History Month as a time to reflect on the many notable contributions that women have made to the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Women’s History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—COMMEMORATING MAY 8, 2020, THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY, THE DAY ON WHICH THE ALLIES ACHIEVED VICTORY IN EUROPE DURING WORLD WAR II, AND HONORING DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE FOR THE INVASION OF EUROPE IN 1944 AND THE 34TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 564

Whereas, in 1941, leaders, soldiers, and citizens of the United States joined a multinational campaign to defeat the German Army, a tyrannical force led by Adolf Hitler that had conquered Europe;

Whereas, in 1942, Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower of Kansas was named Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force for the Allied invasion of Europe;

Whereas, on June 6, 1944, General Eisenhower led a mission from England codenamed “Operation Overlord” across the English Channel to invade the German-occupied Normandy coast of France;

Whereas, in 1945, the success of the invasion and further military missions led to the defeat and surrender of the German Army;

Whereas, on May 8, 1945, the world celebrated the end of World War II in Europe;

Whereas, in 1999, Congress authorized the creation of a memorial to recognize the lifetime of achievements of Dwight D. Eisenhower, both as a general and as the 34th President of the United States;

Whereas, in 2020, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, an entity charged with creating a worthy memorial to Eisenhower in the National Capital Region, fulfilled its mission; and

Whereas, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, chaired by Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, has scheduled a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony to occur on September 17, 2020: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) wishes to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Allied victory in Europe on May 8, 2020;

(2) honors the men and women of the United States who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms that millions of people throughout the world continue to enjoy;

(3) recognizes the contributions of the thousands of members of the Armed Forces who returned home to their families and communities and reentered life in the United States;

(4) celebrates the extraordinary service of 5-star General Dwight D. Eisenhower, whose mission it was to defeat the German Army and end World War II in Europe; and

(5) joins all people of the United States on the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (also known as “V-E Day”), May 8, 2020, in saluting the members of the Armed Forces who gave of themselves and willingly sacrificed so that future generations could be blessed with a more peaceful world.



SENATE RESOLUTION 565—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MORAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 565

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women's History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas an estimated 3,081,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women live in the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women helped shape the history of their communities, Tribes, and the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women contribute to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, fine arts, military service, and public service;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have fought to defend and protect the sovereign rights of Native Nations;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have demonstrated resilience and courage in the face of a history of threatened existence, constant removals, and relocations;

Whereas more than 6,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women bravely serve as members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas more than 17,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are veterans who have made lasting contributions to the United States military;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women broke down historical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—

(1) Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter Laura Beltz Wright of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II; and

(2) Minnie Spotted Wolf of the Blackfeet Tribe, the first Native American woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1943;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including Lori Ann Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe and the first woman in the United States military killed in the Iraq War in 2003;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to the economic development of Native Nations and the United States as a whole, including Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Tribe, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, who—

(1) served as the treasurer of her Tribe;

(2) founded the first Tribally owned national bank; and

(3) led the fight against Federal mismanagement of funds held in trust for more than 500,000 Native Americans;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women own an estimated 154,900 businesses;

Whereas these Native women-owned businesses employ more than 50,000 workers and generate over \$10,000,000,000 in revenues as of 2016;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have opened an average of more than 17 new businesses each day since 2007;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made significant contributions to the field of medicine, including Susan La Flesche Picotte of the Omaha Tribe, who is widely acknowledged as the first Native American to earn a medical degree;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to important scientific advancements, including—

(1) Floy Agnes Lee of Santa Clara Pueblo, who—

(A) worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II; and

(B) pioneered research on radiation biology and cancer;

(2) Native Hawaiian Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott, who—

(A) was the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University; and

(B) was awarded the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences, the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, in 1997; and

(3) Mary Golda Ross of the Cherokee Nation, who—

(A) is considered the first Native American engineer of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration;

(B) helped develop spacecrafts for the Gemini and Apollo space programs; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2019 \$1 coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have achieved distinctive honors in the art of dance, including Maria Tall Chief of the Osage Nation, who was the first major prima ballerina of the United States and was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have accomplished notable literary achievements, including Northern Paiute author Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, who wrote and published one of the first Native American autobiographies in United States history in 1883;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have regularly led efforts to revitalize and maintain Native cultures and languages, including—

(1) Tewa linguist and teacher Esther Martinez, who developed a Tewa dictionary and was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language; and

(2) Native Hawaiian scholar Mary Kawena Pukui, who published more than 50 academic works and was considered the most noted Hawaiian translator of the 20th century;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have excelled in athletic competition and created opportunities for other female athletes within their sport, including Rell Kapoliokaehukai Sunn, who—

(1) ranked as longboard surfing champion of the world; and

(2) co-founded the Women's Professional Surfing Association in 1975, the first professional surfing tour for women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have played a vital role in advancing civil rights, protecting human rights, and safeguarding the environment, including Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich of the Tlingit Nation, who—

(1) helped secure the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 of the Alaska Territory, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

(2) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 \$1 coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have succeeded as judges, attorneys, and legal advocates, including Eliza "Lyda" Conley, a Wyandot-American lawyer and the first Native woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1909;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have paved the way for women in the law, including Native Hawaiian Emma Kailikapiolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, who served as the first female judge in Hawaii;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are dedicated public servants, holding important positions in State governments, local governments, the Federal judicial branch, and the Federal executive branch;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have served as remarkable Tribal councilwomen, Tribal court judges, and Tribal leaders, including Wilma Mankiller, who—

(1) was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation; and

(2) fought for Tribal self-determination and the improvement of the community infrastructure of her Tribe;

Whereas Native Hawaiian women have also led their People through notable acts of public service, including Kaahumanu, who was the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve as regent of the Kingdom of Hawaii;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women to address the barriers they face, including access to justice, health care, and opportunities for educational and economic advancement; and

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made precious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions they have made and continue to make to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the importance of supporting equity, providing safety, and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KATYN MASSACRE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 566

Whereas, on August 23, 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union secretly pledged non-aggression toward one another through the



Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in which they divided Poland between themselves;

Whereas Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west on September 1, 1939, and the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east on September 17, 1939;

Whereas over 60,000 Polish soldiers died in combat defending Poland from these invasions;

Whereas, after the Red Army invaded Poland, it captured thousands of Polish military personnel and civilians, many of whom had fled east from the Nazi invasion;

Whereas the Soviet People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, or NKVD, took charge of the Polish prisoners from the Red Army and transferred them to the Kozelsk, Starobilsk, and Ostashkov internment camps in the western Soviet Union, where many were subject to lengthy interrogations;

Whereas, on March 5, 1940, Soviet General Secretary Josef Stalin and three Soviet Politburo members signed an NKVD order to execute nearly 22,000 prisoners by shooting that also identified more than 10,000 additional Polish prisoners for possible execution;

Whereas, in April and May 1940, the NKVD summarily executed the condemned Polish prisoners at several sites in the Soviet Union, including at the Katyn Forest west of Smolensk in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, and buried them in mass graves;

Whereas, in April 1943, occupying Nazi troops discovered eight mass graves in the Katyn Forest with the remains of many of those Polish prisoners;

Whereas, following this discovery in the Katyn Forest, the mass executions by the Soviets of the Polish prisoners from all three camps became known as the Katyn Massacre;

Whereas the 21,892 victims of the Katyn Massacre included military officers, chaplains, professors, doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, journalists, and refugees, many of whom were military reservists who had been mobilized as a result of the Nazi invasion;

Whereas between 700 and 900 Polish Jews were killed in the Katyn Massacre;

Whereas the Soviet Union falsely blamed Nazi Germany for the massacre and broke off diplomatic relations with the Polish government-in-exile following a request by the government-in-exile that the International Committee of the Red Cross examine the Katyn mass graves;

Whereas an international medical commission excavated the area in Spring 1943 and determined that the massacre occurred in 1940, when the area was under Soviet control;

Whereas the Soviet Union continued to deny responsibility for the Katyn Massacre, blaming the Nazis and concealing evidence of its guilt, for nearly 50 years;

Whereas, on September 18, 1951, the United States House of Representatives established the Select Committee to Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence, and Circumstances of the Katyn Forest Massacre, which is referred to as the Madden Committee;

Whereas, after reviewing witness testimony and relevant documents, the Madden Committee unanimously found that the NKVD, and thus the Soviet Union, was responsible for the executions and recommended a trial before the International World Court of Justice;

Whereas scholars in the United States and United Kingdom published books and articles demonstrating the truth of the Katyn Massacre during the decades of Soviet denial;

Whereas, in Poland in 1981, the Solidarity movement erected a memorial with the inscription "Katyn, 1940" that the Communist government removed and replaced with a

memorial falsely blaming the Nazis for the massacre;

Whereas, in 1988, demonstrators marched in Warsaw to demand an official inquiry into the Katyn Massacre;

Whereas, on April 13, 1990, 50 years after the executions of the Polish prisoners and 47 years since the day the discovery of the mass graves was announced, the Soviet government issued a statement accepting responsibility for the Katyn Massacre and calling it "one of the most heinous crimes of Stalinism";

Whereas on that day Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave the Government of Poland copies of Soviet archival materials pertaining to the executed prisoners that confirmed Soviet responsibility for the massacre;

Whereas, in recent months, President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials have attempted to propagate a false narrative that Poland was responsible for the outbreak of World War II, ignoring the facts of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the coordinated Nazi and Soviet invasions of Poland;

Whereas, in October 2019, Russian officials ordered the removal of a plaque at a former regional NKVD headquarters in Tver commemorating the estimated 6,000 Poles murdered in the building as part of the Katyn Massacre;

Whereas President Putin and the Government of the Russian Federation use these historical revisionist narratives, including false accusations about Polish responsibility for World War II, as a tool in their attempt to whitewash Soviet history, elevate Russia's international position, and sow political discord among its neighbors and adversaries;

Whereas the Katyn Massacre fits into a larger pattern of Communist governments around the world persecuting their citizens and denying their people freedom, which has resulted in the deaths of up to 100,000,000 people since the Russian Revolution of 1917; and

Whereas the year 2020 marks the 80th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the lives and legacies of the approximately 22,000 Polish soldiers and civilians who were murdered by the Soviet People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, or NKVD, during the Katyn Massacre 80 years ago;

(2) recognizes the witnesses, scholars, activists, and demonstrators who fought to bring the truth of the Katyn Massacre to light in the face of the cover-up campaign orchestrated by the Soviet Union;

(3) condemns both past and present attempts to cover up truth of the Katyn Massacre;

(4) condemns broader efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to spread disinformation about the history of World War II; and

(5) encourages education about the facts of the Katyn Massacre, including the horrors of the massacre itself and subsequent attempts to deny it or cover it up.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 567—COM-MENDING CAREER PROFESSIONALS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THEIR EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO REPATRIATE UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHA-

HEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 567

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented disruption in global commerce and travel;

Whereas foreign governments around the world have limited and restricted commercial travel arriving and departing from their countries to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by closing airports, seaports, and borders;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions abroad left tens of thousands of United States citizens and legal permanent residents overseas without a direct way to return to the United States;

Whereas it was an extraordinary challenge for the Department of State to help so many Americans seeking repatriation from around the world at the same time;

Whereas on March 19, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the mounting repatriation demand from United States citizens and legal permanent residents living abroad, the Department of State created a Repatriation Task Force to facilitate the repatriation of these Americans and to notify Congress and any Americans needing repatriation assistance of these efforts;

Whereas career professionals at the Department of State, with exemplary contributions from the members of the Department's Repatriation Task Force and embassy and consulate staff around the world, in partnership with commercial airlines and the United States Transportation Command, brought home more than 78,000 Americans on 833 flights originating from 128 countries and territories during an 18-week period;

Whereas Department of State officers, their family members, and locally engaged staff faced personal risk, long hours, and rapidly changing local circumstances to assist Americans needing transportation to the United States;

Whereas Department of State officers and contract employees across the United States have worked to ensure that vital visa and passport services remain operational, including for tasks critical to the support of our national security, health care systems, and food supply chains; and

Whereas at least 450 Department of State personnel were diagnosed with COVID-19, including 5 who died from the illness: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the tremendous work done by Department of State career professionals—

(A) to address the extraordinary challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(B) to bring home more than 78,000 American citizens during a time of crisis;

(2) thanks Department of State career professionals who volunteered to work at all hours to meet the Department's highest priority, which was helping fellow citizens in a time of dire need and stress;

(3) commends the Repatriation Task Force for their efforts to facilitate the repatriation of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents;

(4) thanks the employees at United States embassies and consulates throughout the world, particularly career consular officers, for their work to identify flights and execute the departure procedure of thousands of individuals, despite difficult operating conditions on the ground;

(5) thanks the United States Transportation Command for its assistance in securing flights for United States citizens and legal permanent residents;

(6) recognizes the efforts made by partners overseas to help United States embassies and consulates secure the flights and ground transportation need to allow these Americans to return home;

(7) expresses its condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of those Department of State personnel who died as a result of COVID-19; and

(8) urges the employees of the Department of State to continue the important work of bringing home United States citizens and legal permanent residents who remain stranded in foreign countries.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a resolution with Senator RISCH, as well as other colleagues, to thank countless State Department career officials for their extensive efforts to bring home over 78,000 United States citizens and legal permanent residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic caused an unprecedented disruption in global travel, leaving tens of thousands of United States citizens and legal permanent residents stranded overseas with no direct way to return to the United States. While we will have ample opportunity in the future to examine and better understand the decisions made by senior leadership at the Department of State at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis that could have allowed the United States to more effectively respond to this pandemic, including to identify and mitigate repatriation challenges, I will note that once the Department recognized the enormity of the repatriation crisis, it's career professionals sprung into action and, characteristically, rose to meet the challenge and serve their nation with distinction.

Staying true to the Department's most fundamental mission, to protect U.S. citizens abroad, State Department officers, family members, and local employees faced great personal risk and long hours to assist U.S. citizens during a time of dire need and stress. For that, my colleagues and I are tremendously grateful. We commend the extraordinary work done by the Repatriation Task Force, embassy and consulate staff around the world, and the United States Transportation Command. Their efforts resulted in the repatriation of over 78,000 Americans on 833 flights originating from 128 countries and territories in just an 18-week period. I would also like to extend my deepest thanks to Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Ian Brownlee and Deputy Assistant Secretary Hugo Yon for their exemplary leadership of and contribution to the Repatriation Task Force, as well as to Wendy Kennedy for her work with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs. Furthermore, I would like to thank Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Julie Chung, Deputy Assistant Secretary Kevin O'Reilly, Consul General Dana Deree (Honduras), Consul General William Bent (El Salvador), Consul General John Barrett (Recife),

Deputy Chief of Mission Denison Offutt (Lima), Director for Central America Affairs Marta Youth, and Country Consular Coordinator Alexander Delorey (Quito) for their leadership in facilitating the repatriation of thousands of Americans citizens from countries in the Western hemisphere. I recognize that in calling out these individuals who were especially helpful to me and to my office that I run the risk of not naming the tens, if not hundreds of others who worked just as hard and contributed just as much; they have my thanks as well.

I, along with my colleagues, are profoundly grateful to the Department of State personnel who have worked tirelessly these past few months, who have served the United States above and beyond the call of duty, and who have helped their fellow citizen in a time of dire need. I urge the Department to continue its good work and to remain ready to bring home American citizens and legal permanent residents as the COVID-19 pandemic persists.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1581. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3608, to amend the CARES Act to provide flexibility in use of funds by States, Indian Tribes, and municipalities; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1581. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3608, to amend the CARES Act to provide flexibility in use of funds by States, Indian Tribes, and municipalities; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations; as follows:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coronavirus Relief Fund Flexibility for State and Local Government Act".

##### SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY IN USE OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136), section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001(a) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(d) USE AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds paid to a State, Tribal government, or unit of local government under this section may be used for operating expenses not related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and shall remain available until expended.

“(2) LIMITATION.—No funds paid to a State, Tribal government, or unit of local government under this section may be used for any costs of, or payments from, a pension fund or plan of the State, Tribal government, or unit of local government in its capacity as an employer.”.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet

during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 9:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing following nominations: Kenneth H. Braithwaite to be Secretary of Navy, James H. Anderson to be Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, and General Charles Q. Brown Jr. to be Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 565 submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 565) recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The resolution (S. Res. 565) was agreed to.

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

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

The preamble was agreed to.

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

#### APPOINTMENTS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to

Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Gayle C. Manchin of West Virginia.

The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 116-92, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking: The Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY of Massachusetts; The Honorable Kathleen H. Hicks, PhD, of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 11,  
2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, May 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time of the two

leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Montgomery nomination. Finally, I ask that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on the Montgomery nomination occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
MAY 11, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:11 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 11, 2020, at 3 p.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further

consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

BRETT P. GIROIR, OF TEXAS, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 7, 2020:

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON A. ACUNA AND ENDING WITH DAVID J. ZWIRBLIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER J. CONKLIN AND ENDING WITH GENNARO A. RUOCCO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN G. ANGELO AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY S. ZAMARIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRETT P. GIROIR, OF TEXAS, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION