



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

No. 173

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 9 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

The Senate met at 4:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Mighty God, You are our dwelling place and underneath are Your everlasting arms. May our President and First Lady feel Your healing touch. May our Senators who are dealing with the personal health challenge of COVID-19 also experience Your divine healing and comfort.

Lord, we trust in Your support, for You continue to be the source of our hope and peace. Give us great faith as we feel You near even in the darkness.

Lord, provide our lawmakers with such fortitude that they can walk calmly through life's storms. We pray in Your wonderful Name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WICKER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate has spent the last few days like all Americans have, praying for quick healing and smooth recovery for President Trump and the First Lady following their positive COVID-19 tests.

I spoke to the President by phone twice this past weekend. Both times, his spirits were high. Both times, we talked about the people's business: our Nation's fight against this pandemic; his exceptional nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Barrett; as well as our efforts to continue rebuilding the economy for working families.

We are also thinking of our friends and colleagues, the senior Senator for

Utah, the senior Senator for Wisconsin, and the junior Senator for North Carolina, who are currently working from home. The standard cliché would say that these past few days have provided a stark reminder of the dangers of this terrible virus, but the truth is that our Nation did not need any such reminder.

More than 209,000 of our fellow citizens have lost their lives. Millions have battled illness or had their lives disrupted by positive tests. This past weekend, my home State of Kentucky just recorded its highest ever—highest ever—one-day total for new cases. We all need to remain vigilant. We all need to remain careful.

If the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader had not spent months blocking another bipartisan relief package over unrelated, far-left poison pills, we could have put hundreds of billions more dollars for kids, jobs, and healthcare in the pipeline many weeks ago.

For the sake of our Nation, let's hope they finally lay down their partisan demands and let our country get back on offense against this disease.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in just a moment, I will move to withdraw the pending cloture petitions and recess the Senate with pro forma meetings until 2 weeks from today. Members will receive at least 24 hours' notice if any votes on urgent matters are scheduled before October 19. That would take bipartisan consent. Otherwise, the full Senate will next meet on October 19.

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



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Obviously, the people's business does not come to a halt in the absence of votes on the floor. The important work of our committees will go forward as each committee sees fit. Chairman GRAHAM has already announced the Judiciary Committee will meet as planned on October 12 to begin considering Judge Barrett's nomination to the Supreme Court. We are full steam ahead with the fair, thorough, and timely confirmation process that Judge Barrett, the Court, and the Nation deserve.

The chairman has indicated the committee will use the same hybrid format—with some participants appearing in person and others appearing over video—that it has successfully used for more than 20 prior hearings this year.

Let me say that again. The Judiciary Committee alone—just that committee—has held more than 20 hybrid hearings since the start of the pandemic. Many of these saw multiple Senators participating via video conference. Some of them saw nominees participating by video conference. At times, the Democratic members of the committee have gone literally out of their way to praise this technology and the chairman's flexibility with this format.

Across all of our committees, we have had 150 hybrid hearings since the pandemic began. The Senate has used this format no fewer than 150 times. We have continued performing our constitutional duties while protecting health and safety during the pandemic.

Our Democratic colleagues have largely welcomed this approach, and they have frequently taken advantage of it. So whatever mix proves to be the right decision at this time next week, it will be completely consistent with the committee's own precedent and with the ways committees all across the Senate have adapted and done their work throughout the pandemic.

Our whole society is using these tools. Earlier today, the Supreme Court itself resumed conducting oral arguments via teleconference, as it has done since last spring. The Senate has been using these processes for months. Just yesterday, the ranking member of the Rules Committee reminded the country that she actually helped set them up.

It is nonsense for Senate Democrats to turn on a dime and now pretend these procedures are somehow no longer workable. It is nonsense to suggest that the tools that Senate Democrats have been happily using across all of our committees for months have suddenly gone bad overnight.

Nobody is taking these disingenuous tactics at face value because the Democrats have told everyone, out loud, about their real intentions. For weeks now, numerous Senate Democrats have publicly promised they would try every trick in the book—every trick in the book—every maneuver available, to obstruct and delay a fair confirmation process.

Weeks ago, the junior Senator from Hawaii pledged: "I will look for every procedural tool that I can [find] to make sure that this does not happen."

Weeks ago, the senior Senator from Massachusetts: "We need to use every tool. . . . We need to think seriously about everything we can do to try to slow this down."

The No. 2 Democratic Senator, our friend from Illinois, has said: "we [will] use whatever tools we have available" to "slow things down."

Just yesterday, in the very same press conference where the Democratic leader claimed that his latest call to delay the hearings were rooted in health and safety concerns, he gave the game away just moments later. In that same press conference, he admitted, "We will use every tool in the toolbox to delay"—so much about health and safety concerns.

Our Democratic colleagues have admitted out loud what all these stalling tactics are about. Senate Democrats have openly admitted they are grasping at straws to block the exceedingly well-qualified nominee from receiving a fair and prompt process.

Look, we have months of experience governing this way while protecting health and safety here in the Senate. This body will not cease to function just because Democrats are afraid they may lose a vote. Chairman GRAHAM has all the options and procedures he needs to supervise a fair, thorough, and hopefully dignified confirmation hearing next week. That is just what is going to happen.

I look forward to seeing Judge Barrett's brilliance and qualifications on full display starting 1 week from today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I would like to add, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues, the concerns expressed for the President and First Lady, that they recover quickly and fully.

Having had coronavirus—likely contracted here when we were working on the CARES Act in March—I understand how tricky this can be and, knowing four people who died of coronavirus, how serious it can be. Our prayer is that this is a mild case, and it passes quickly.

I also extend the same concern on behalf of my Democratic colleagues for the Members of the Senate who have recently tested positive and hope that they either have no symptoms or the symptoms pass quickly.

I couldn't help but notice, as I came into the Senate today on the subway from the Russell building, that there is an advisory that has been posted for months down at the entrance to the Senate that says that we are trying to follow CDC guidelines, but the advisory placard says nothing about masks—nothing.

I have wondered about that as I passed before it in the past, but in light of the experience over the last few days, I think in order to fairly follow science-based guidelines and give people warnings about what they should do to protect their health, we might consider a different placard.

Briefly, with respect to the majority leader's comments—I would love to be working on a COVID bill. The House passed a Democratic preferred COVID bill—the Heroes Act—in May. I understand the majority leader and his colleagues find things about it they don't like.

There is no expectation that they would just take up the House Democratic bill and pass it, but we waited through May and then June and then July and then August, until finally, in mid to late September, the majority put a bill on the floor that we viewed, frankly, as insufficient.

It contained no funds for State and local government aid, no funds for rental or mortgage assistance, no funds for SNAP benefits or food aid. It would have stricken State laws, such as those that had been passed in Virginia to try to provide a workplace safety standard for people returning to work in the days of COVID.

We voted the bill down, as the majority leader knows, but we did so with the expectation that that no vote would function much like the no vote in March functioned when we came in on a Sunday and we voted down a partisan proposal, and a few days later, we had a bipartisan proposal—the CARES Act—that has helped millions and millions of Americans, small businesses, hospitals, families.

We hope that no vote would lead to the same negotiation that could potentially find a solution for Americans who are still looking for relief, but the majority wants to now move to a different topic. They want to now speed through a Supreme Court nomination with an unprecedented speed and, indeed, an unprecedented process.

I understand that the majority leader might categorize the Democrats' concerns about proceeding at a time of great sickness as a procedural trick, but I don't think there is any unreasonableness to a Judiciary Committee member's request that a hearing on the single most important appointment that the Senate might make should be done in person. If it is done in person, it should be done in person in a way that is safe. That is the request the Democrats would have and that we continue to believe would be in accord with the institution's norms but also the best thing for the safety of all Members.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been said that the United States is like a brilliant tapestry woven from a dazzling array of colors and patterns into a unique whole. If that is true, then the contributions of Hispanics are surely among the largest and most vibrant swaths in our rich national tapestry, and Hispanic Heritage Month is a good time to reflect on those contributions.

This celebration runs each year from mid-September to mid-October. The dates were chosen to coincide with the dates in which several Latin American nations—including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Chile—celebrate their own independence from colonial rule. This national celebration used to be just a week long, but in 1988, Congress wisely and unanimously voted to expand Hispanic Heritage Week to Hispanic Heritage Month. The legislation was sponsored by Congressman Esteban Torres and my friend and political mentor, Senator Paul Simon. It was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, a proud, conservative Republican who understood that America's heritage as a nation of immigrants is one of our greatest sources of strength—economically, politically, culturally and morally.

The contributions and influence of Latinos on our Nation has grown dramatically in the three decades since the establishment of Hispanic Heritage Month. Today there are more than 60 million Latinos in the U.S. Illinois is proud to be home to one of the largest Latino populations in the country, including many people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Guatemalan heritage. Latinos and Latinas are leaders in every walk of life, including business, the arts, sciences, education, sports, entertainment, and public service. A “wise Latina,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor, now serves on the U.S. Supreme Court. Ellen Ochoa, an engineer and the first Latina astronaut, is now director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Latinas are literally helping America reach for the stars.

In my home State of Illinois, Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr., is the president of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, based in Chicago. He and his organization are doing critical work to educate and motivate Latinos to vote and to fill out the Census, ensuring that Latinos are seen and their voices heard. Alexis Esparza is president of Economic Strategies Development Cor-

poration. For nearly half a century, his organization, ESDC, has worked in the Pilsen community of Chicago to preserve historic buildings, build affordable new housing, and help create new commercial and industrial economic development opportunities. They are part of a long and proud tradition of Hispanic men and women whose work has made America's economy more prosperous and fairer for all of us.

Many Americans know the names Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. In 1966, these two brave labor leaders helped organize farm workers in Delano, CA, to form the United Farm Workers of America. Standing together, backed by their union, the farm workers were able to strike for higher wages, safer working conditions, and protections for women farm workers from sexual violence.

Fewer people recognize the name Guadalupe Marshall. She is also a hero for workers' rights. Let me tell you about her. On Memorial Day 1937, 10 unarmed union demonstrators from Republic Steele were shot down by police in Chicago. Lupe Marshall, who had immigrated to America from Mexico when she was 10 years old, was one of the people attending that strike. She was a mother of three and a volunteer social worker at the Jane Addams Hull House. The “Memorial Day Massacre” is how many history books label the carnage at Republic Steele. Three weeks after the killings, Lupe Marshall travelled to Washington, DC, to testify before the Senate about what she had witnessed.

She described placing herself on the front line when shots rang out and then turning to see many people lying face down on the ground. She ran, but she was clubbed in the head and arrested. Her courage helped to build support among the American people and in Congress for laws to help working people stand together for fair wages, safe working conditions, and civil rights.

During this Hispanic Heritage Month, we are especially aware of the enormous contributions that Hispanic Americans continue to make to America's economy. Sadly, we know that this COVID-19 pandemic is taking a disproportionate toll on Black and Brown Americans. Nationwide, Latinos are being hospitalized with COVID-19 at more than 4½ times the rate of White people. In Illinois and several other States, Latinos have the highest COVID-19 infection rates of any ethnic group. COVID-19 is also threatening the livelihoods of Latinos throughout the US. Almost 60 percent of Latino households have experienced job loss or wage reductions during this pandemic.

At the same time, our Nation is relying heavily on Latinos, both citizens and immigrants, to help steer us safely through this pandemic. Latinos are working on the frontlines of this pandemic as doctors, nurses, and home healthcare workers. They are also working around the clock, behind the scenes, to disinfect our workplaces, schools, stores, and health centers. Latino farm workers continue to work

in the fields and in packing plants, harvesting, and preparing the food that keeps us fed. Despite the virus and, now, the thick smoke of wildfires blanketing much of the west coast, they remain on the job.

Latinos are working as grocery clerks, teachers, postal employees, servicemembers, and other “essential worker jobs.” Many of these heroic essential workers are immigrants, and many are Dreamers. They continue to work and serve in their communities while their own status remains in limbo.

Latino-owned businesses are one of the fastest growing segments of America's economy. Nationwide, nearly 1-in-4 newly created businesses today are Latino-owned. More than 4 million Latino-owned businesses provide jobs for 2.7 million workers. Together, these businesses pump over \$700 billion into America's economy. In Illinois, 120,000 Latino-owned businesses generate \$15 billion and create jobs for 100,000 workers. These passionate entrepreneurs are the heart and pride of their communities. I see them in communities all across Illinois. Let me tell you about some of them.

In Chicagoland, Latino community and business leaders have created programs such as the Food for Hope Program and the Big Shoulders Fund to distribute free food to families who are hungry because of economic hardships related to the pandemic.

Pedro Perez owns his own maintenance company, PCY General Services. He and his daughter are part of a team that diligently disinfects Esperanza Health Centers on the Southwest Side of Chicago to make sure that the space is safe for families and for the medical professionals who work there. What is even more remarkable is that he does all of this without charge. Why? Pedro says, with a smile, because “it's his community.” Every day, in every community in Illinois and every corner of America, you can find stories like theirs.

The beauty and richness of the Latino community goes beyond food and traditions. At the heart of the Latino community is an exceptionally resilient spirit that has sustained them through history and is helping to sustain America today through the most severe health and economic crises most of us has ever experienced. I am honored to represent so many of these hard-working families in my State and look forward to see how they continue to inspire us to keep building a better America for everyone.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
MEMORIAL

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, we celebrate the 130th birthday of America's 34th President and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary

Force in Europe during World War II, Dwight David Eisenhower.

Without Ike, it is not a stretch to imagine that the trajectory of American history might have been significantly altered. It was General Eisenhower who commanded a successful D-Day invasion, which became a pivotal turning point in the Second World War. It was President Eisenhower who waged peace, regulated atomic power, and protected the world against the growing spread of communism. Through it all, it was not selfish ambition or prestige that guided him, but rather his character and sense of duty.

He was born in Denison, TX, on October 14, 1890, as the third of seven sons. At the age of 2, Ike's family moved to Abilene, KS, a lively community with a famous frontier past where he developed his interest in exploring the outdoors. Throughout his lifetime of leadership, Ike never lost touch with his western origins. As Kansas' favorite son, Ike nurtured the values he learned as a young boy, some of which guided his decision-making as a leader. He placed the job and the mission—not himself—at the center. With this heartfelt ethic, he set the example for those around him.

From Abilene to West Point and from Normandy to Washington, Eisenhower embodied the humility, honesty, sincerity, optimism, and fortitude that he would call upon the country to emulate in his first inaugural address on January 20, 1953: "The productivity of our heads, our hands, and our hearts is the source of all the strength we can command, for both the enrichment of our lives and the winning of peace," he declared. "Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America."

As Americans, we owe a great deal to the man who led the U.S. and Allied Forces in the liberation of Europe and expelled the evil of Hitler's Nazism. On the domestic front, we are transformed by the fruit of his legacy as President, including: the Interstate Highway System, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—now known as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education—and the Federal Aviation Administration. Ike also brought Alaska and Hawaii into the Union; eradicated segregation in our Armed Forces; and deployed the Army's 101st Airborne to Central High School in Little Rock, AR, ensuring that the law of educational integration was followed by all States.

As chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, I am proud to report that construction on the national memorial of President and General Eisenhower, located on Independence Avenue, SW, between 4th and 6th Streets, is complete, and the memorial is open to the public.

The commission hosted a dedication ceremony at the site the evening of September 17, 2020. Participants in the

ceremony included my fellow commissioners, including vice chairman Representative MIKE THOMPSON of California, Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia, Senator GARY PETERS of Michigan, Senator DAN SULLIVAN of Alaska, Representative SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., OF GEORGIA, REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL K. SIMPSON of Idaho, Representative WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY of Texas, former Senator Robert J. "Bob" Dole of Kansas, Alfred Geduldig, Susan Banes Harris, and Catherine Ann Stevens.

Again, with General Eisenhower as they were on the eve of the D-Day invasion, soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division presented the colors. Speakers included me, Bret Bair, Senate Chaplain Barry Black, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, Architect Frank Gehry, Ms. Rachel Mast of Kansas who recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Astronaut Chris Cassidy from the International Space Station, Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Greta Van Susteren who introduced Senator Bob Dole, David Eisenhower, Susan Eisenhower, and Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. Other Eisenhower family members present at the ceremony included Julie Nixon Eisenhower, their son Alex and his children, Mary Jean Eisenhower's son Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, and several members of the Gill family, relatives of Mamie Doud Eisenhower.

Enjoyed by all were musical performances by the "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, and Voices of Service performers Master Sgt. Caleb Green, Staff Sgt. Ron Henry (Ret.), Sgt. Maj. Christal Rheams, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hanna. Guests at the ceremony and others joining via livestream and CSPAN were thrilled to experience a flyover of F-16s piloted by soldiers of the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard. The flyover occurred precisely at the end of the National Anthem performed by Voices of Service. Additionally, 26 members of the West Point Alumni Glee Club delighted guests with superb renditions of several songs, including "Grand Old Flag," "World War II Medley," and "God Bless the USA."

September's dedication ceremony was a fitting tribute to one of our country's finest leaders. The memorial is now one of the 420 National Memorials and Parks under the stewardship of the National Park Service. I invite all to visit the new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial.

I ask my fellow Senators and all citizens to join me in celebrating America's 34th President and Supreme Commander during World War II by wishing Ike a happy 130th birthday.

OPENING OF THE CHEYENNE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the opening of the Cheyenne National Cemetery and the hard work that has been put in to this project over the past few years.

This is a historic accomplishment for Wyoming. The Cheyenne National Cemetery is the first veterans cemetery in Wyoming that is run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Before I became a Senator, Wyoming was campaigning for a national cemetery within the State. Once I was in the Senate, I had the opportunity to help advance this project with the help of veterans, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, and the patriotic people of Wyoming. They are all to be congratulated, and I know all are thankful this day is finally here.

The opening of this national cemetery will allow veterans in rural areas to be buried in their home State. Before it was constructed, veterans had to go to neighboring States in order to be laid to rest. Now, the Cheyenne National Cemetery will be used to serve approximately 22,000 veterans and their families. Wyoming has worked for a long time, in conjunction with the VA, to give our State veterans what they deserve: a place to rest in peace alongside their fellow servicemembers. Burial services have also been expanded to veterans' spouses and other eligible family members, for they too have sacrificed so much for their country.

National cemeteries are a way to honor our service men and women and serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't free. It comes to us at great cost and tremendous personal sacrifice. Each name that has been enshrined has a story to tell about someone who left family and friends, safety and security behind to be part of a cause much greater than themselves. In the end, many of them gave up all of their tomorrows so that today's world might be a better place for us all to live.

I am extremely proud of the steps that the VA and the great State of Wyoming have taken in order to honor our veterans. We must never forget the sacrifices of these brave men and women.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the proud Michigan residents who have served in our Nation's military and their families.

When our country was at risk of fracturing in a brutal Civil War, the people of Michigan volunteered. When fascism threatened freedom around the world, the people of Michigan fought back. And when faced with new dangers—from terrorism to pandemic diseases—the people of Michigan remain willing to put our lives on the line on behalf of the American people.

Whenever and wherever our Nation needs us, the people of Michigan always respond. In some families, this spirit of service stretches back generations.

The Armsteads are one such Michigan family. Peter Armstead was originally from England, but when his new Nation needed him, he answered the call. He fought during the Civil War

and barely survived his time in a Confederate prisoner of war camp in Mississippi.

Earl Armstead, Peter's grandson, served in France during World War I, where he was put in charge of destroying enemy bridges. He came home suffering from post-traumatic stress and, like so many of our veterans, struggled to talk about what he had seen.

And Robert Armstead, Earl's nephew, also fought in Europe during World War II. He served in the Tank Destroyer Battalion and took part in the Po Valley campaign in Italy. His unit was being readied for the Pacific Campaign when the war ended.

All three of these veterans were willing to sacrifice everything in defense of our Nation. This past August, a grateful nation honored them with side-by-side burials at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Dr. Robert Armstead II, Robert's son, worked to make this historic interment happen. He believes veterans deserve to be remembered and honored for their service. I couldn't agree more.

My own father, who served during World War II, always told me that veterans should not stand at the back of any line. Our Nation must keep its promises to our heroes who have served, whether it is healthcare, education, a chance at a good job, the military recognitions they earned in service, or a place of honor in our national cemeteries, places that Robert Armstead II calls "sacred holy ground."

On this Veterans Day and every day, I salute all of Michigan's veterans past and present. I salute their families, who sacrifice alongside them and help ensure that their stories are never forgotten.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO MEL THOMPSON, GILDA LINTZ, KAY SHARP, AND CHAD TENPENNY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President; I was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1980 and then the Senate in 1996. I have enjoyed the privilege of becoming the longest serving member of Congress in the history of the Sunflower State and representing Kansans in Washington, DC, for 40 years.

It has been an amazing ride, a great partnership in government and many people have been a tremendous help to Franki and me. We want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the friends we have made along the way.

My first boss in public service was a true gentleman from Concordia named Frank Carlson. Senator Carlson was the first person to hit the political trifecta and serve our State as Senator, Congressman, and Governor. The always modest Senator Carlson routinely said, "There are no self-made men or women in public service; it is your friends, family and staff who make you what you are."

Through the years I have repeated Senator Carlson's words on many occa-

sions, and I truly believe that Members of Congress are only as good as their staff. Well, I have been blessed because, for four decades, I believe that I have had the best staff both in Kansas and on Capitol Hill.

While I could offer a long list of current and former aides who have truly made a difference for Kansas and America, there are three unique, humble, and accomplished individuals who deserve special recognition. Mel Thompson, Gilda Lintz, and Kay Sharp have all served quietly and effectively behind the scenes on my Kansas staff for nearly a quarter century.

First, there is Mel Thompson who serves as my State agriculture representative. Actually, Mel and I first worked together on the Washington staff of First District Congressman Keith Sebelius in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Mel has taught me a lot about agriculture and even more about people. Nobody is better at listening to frustrated farmers and ranchers and few know more about the complex and often burdensome regulations offered by USDA and EPA. This incredible knowledge and Mel's neighborly presence led to well-deserved recognition by the Kansas Farm Bureau who honored Mel with a Distinguished Service to Agriculture award. Mel has been a strong advocate for me and, in fact, a brother.

Next, there is Gilda Lintz who serves as the district director in my Topeka office. Gilda is what we call a casework specialist, serving as the court of last resort when communication has broken down between a Kansan and a government agency. Gilda has invested her heart and soul into assisting veterans to obtain service awards or unrealized benefits. Additionally, Gilda has led my service academy nomination board that meets each October to identify the best and brightest Kansans capable of graduating from our Nation's military academies and defending our Nation. I call her "golden." Thank you, Gilda, for nurturing America's heroes. You are a true "Kansas treasure."

I also want to recognize Kay Sharp who serves as my State casework and outreach director. Kay joined my staff after a stint with Senator Nancy Kassebaum and has been a steady and dependable rock in the Overland Park office since 1997. Like Mel and Gilda, Kay is the foundation of Team Roberts. Kay leads my state casework effort and has helped countless Kansans obtain last minute passports, crucial IRS refund checks, and meaningful social security disability payments. More recently, like she did after 9-11, Kay worked after hours and late into the morning on weekends to ensure Americans were able to re-enter the country during COVID-related travel interruptions. Most of all, Kay is someone who I could count on for frank advice and counsel. She always gives you the unvarnished truth, and for that, I am grateful.

Finally, I want to say a word about my longtime State director and now

chief of staff, Chad Tenpenny. Chad has been out there riding shotgun, covering all 105 counties, with me since my early days in the Senate. We have covered almost every inch of the State, from the Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton County to the eastern border in Wyandotte County. The people of Kansas know and respect Chad and depend on him as a direct link to the Federal Government. His steady dependable leadership in the State has been a gift to me and to all Kansans over the years.

As a proud U.S. Marine, where I learned that I could achieve more than I ever thought I really could, I am constantly urging my staff to "sprint to the finish line" and "take the Hill." Mel, Gilda, and Kay have done a lot of sprinting and climbing through the years. Together, we have made Kansas a better place, and for that, I am proud.

Semper Fi.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the University of Akron's sesquicentennial and congratulate them on 150 years of extraordinary research, education, and contributions to northeast Ohio.

In 1870, Buchtel College was founded in Akron, OH. It was the predecessor to today's University of Akron. The opening enrollment at Buchtel College was 46 collegiate students with an additional 171 students in the preparatory program. Today, the University of Akron has an enrollment of more than 19,000 students between the main campus in Akron and four regional locations, and the school has more than 175,000 alumni living in 138 countries around the globe.

The University of Akron is home to a beautiful 218-acre campus and top programs in psychology, business administration and accounting, secondary education, the world's largest polymer academic program, and more. UA has a \$2.7 billion economic impact in its primary service area, which includes the Ohio counties of Summit, Cuyahoga, Stark, Medina, Portage, and Wayne.

On October 10, 2020, UA will be celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary with 150 independent celebrations around the world, concluding with a live message and toast from current University of Akron President, Gary Miller. The evening will honor UA's past 150 years of education and research and recognize the impactful, imaginative, and innovative work faculty, researchers, and staff at UA have done over the years and continue to do today.

UA is a prominent institution of higher education with a long history of playing an active role in serving the community in Akron and beyond. Congratulations to the University of

Akron for 150 years of excellence, and I wish them the best of luck as they keep the lamp of learning burning for many years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2330. An act to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide for congressional oversight of the board of directors of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and to protect amateur athletes from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of S. 2330.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-5609. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts; Correction" (RIN1557-AE93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5610. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Acquisition Regulation: Contractor Qualifications; Acquisition of Utility Services; and Contract Administration and Audit Services" (RIN2900-AQ38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2020; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5611. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Trainee Certification" (RIN2900-AQ61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2020; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. BRAUN:

S. 4796. A bill to address the high costs of health care services, prescription drugs, and health insurance coverage in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4797. A bill to place restrictions on the issuance of nonimmigrant visas to Chinese journalists employed by a Chinese state-run

media organization or effectively controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 4798. A bill to use grant funds to provide identification kits to certain children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 4799. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced abortions by the Government of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 746. A resolution designating the week of October 4 through October 10, 2020, as "National Community Policing Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAINE (for Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR)):

S. Con. Res. 49. A concurrent resolution mandating procedures to ensure adequate precautions against COVID-19 in Senate buildings; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 861

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 3004

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3004, a bill to protect human rights and enhance opportunities for LGBTI people around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 3353

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3353, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients, and for other purposes.

S. 3424

At the request of Ms. SMITH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3424, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal mor-

bidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 3753

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3753, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs have physical locations for the disposal of controlled substances medications.

S. 4694

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4694, a bill to extend and expand limitations on the importation of uranium from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 4715

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4715, a bill to grant Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 4757

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4757, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 689

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 689, a resolution condemning the crackdown on peaceful protestors in Belarus and calling for the imposition of sanctions on responsible officials.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 746—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4 THROUGH OCTOBER 10, 2020, AS "NATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICING WEEK"

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 746

Whereas police officers are indispensable members of the community who put their lives on the line to protect others;

Whereas promoting strong relationships founded in trust and mutual respect between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve helps ensure the safe and effective execution of the law;

Whereas law enforcement officers and communities that work together to address public safety concerns can create lasting solutions to difficult challenges;

Whereas recent events have sparked a nationwide call to improve the interactions between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve, particularly communities of color;

Whereas community policing facilitates peaceful dialogue, capable of fostering understanding and trust, between law enforcement officers and civilians;

Whereas community policing can help improve the equal enforcement of the laws;

Whereas community policing informs the public about the challenges that law enforcement officers face in executing their duties and provides law enforcement officers insight into the concerns of community members;

Whereas a long-term commitment to community policing is necessary to eliminate the underlying causes of crime;

Whereas the advancement of community policing should be supported to ensure that State and local law enforcement agencies have necessary resources; and

Whereas community policing has been recognized as an important tool for improving the relationship between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 4 through October 10, 2020, as “National Community Policing Week”; and

(2) supports community policing and encourages the people of the United States, law enforcement agencies, and elected officials to identify ways in which communities can improve public safety, strengthen relationships, and build trust.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49—MANDATING PROCEDURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST COVID-19 IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. KAINE (for Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR)) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 49

Whereas on March 13, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States was declared a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

Whereas as of August 7, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has—

(1) recommended “that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don’t live in [their] household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.”; and

(2) stated that “masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others” and “masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.”;

Whereas as of October 5, 2020, nearly 7,500,000 people in the United States had contracted COVID-19, and nearly 210,000 people

in the United States have died as a result of COVID-19;

Whereas the United States accounts for approximately 4.25 percent of the world’s population but, as of October 5, 2020, people in the United States account for over 20 percent of those killed by COVID-19 globally; and

Whereas the Senate has seen an increase in the number of Senators diagnosed with COVID-19: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is essential to the continuity of government that the United States Government and officials adhere to public health guidance in order to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

(2) the absence of a coordinated and comprehensive COVID-19 strategy in the Senate is a threat to the legislative branch.

SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 PROTECTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Senate building” means any Senate Office Building or the Senate Wing of the Capitol; and

(2) the term “Senate worker” means—

(A) an employee whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate; or

(B) an employee of a contractor of an office or agency in the legislative branch whose regular duty station is in a Senate building.

(b) MASK USE.—All individuals shall wear a mask while in any public area of a Senate building. The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall issue guidance or regulations to carry out this subsection.

(c) ADHERENCE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.—All individuals shall adhere to guidance and recommendations of the Office of the Attending Physician with respect to social distancing while in a Senate building.

(d) TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING PROGRAM.—The Office of the Attending Physician, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, and Secretary of the Senate, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health of the District of Columbia, shall develop and implement a program to conduct—

(1) COVID-19 testing of—

(A) Senators; and

(B) Senate workers who will be physically present in a Senate building in connection with the duties of the Senate worker; and

(2) contact tracing with respect to any Senator or Senate worker who tests positive for COVID-19.

CLOTURE MOTIONS WITHDRAWN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions filed on Wednesday, September 30, be withdrawn.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 90

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of the Congressional Review Act, H.J. Res. 90 remain in status quo through October 19, 2020.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020 THROUGH MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only with no businesses being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Tuesday, October 6, at 11:30 a.m.; Friday, October 9, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 13, at 8:45 a.m.; Friday, October 16, at 4:30 p.m. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourn until Friday, October 16, it next convene at 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 19, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business being closed; finally, following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume the Newman nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Would the Senator modify his request so that in lieu of reconvening Monday, October 19, there be additional pro forma sessions with no business conducted at 12 noon on the following dates: October 20, October 23, October 27, October 30, and November 3; further, that when the Senate adjourn on November 3, the Senate next convene at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 4, with the remaining provisions of the original request in effect?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Does the leader so modify his request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Is there an objection to the original request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 6, 2020

ate, I ask unanimous consent that it
stand adjourned under the previous
order.

There being no objection, the Senate,
at 4:47 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday,
October 6, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no fur-
ther business to come before the Sen-