

These rocket attacks constitute a significant escalation, are counter-productive, and should cease. They further underscore fears that the conflict will expand beyond Ethiopia's borders. If left to continue, the conflict in Tigray will not only lead to a catastrophic loss of life and worsening humanitarian conditions, but will breed further enmity that will derail Ethiopia's democratic progress and destabilize the entire subregion.

We cannot afford to let that happen. Ethiopia is the second most populous African country, home to the African Union, and one of the world's top contributors to UN peacekeeping missions a tradition that dates back to the Korean war. It has been a pillar of U.S. engagement in the Horn of Africa for decades, partnering with the U.S. on counterterrorism and with the U.S. and international community to stabilize protracted conflicts in neighboring Somalia and South Sudan.

The Ethiopian people need peace, not war; and the world needs a stable, democratic and prosperous Ethiopia.

I urge the federal government and the leaders of Tigray region to choose the path of peace. While it is tempting to assign blame for the outbreak of hostilities, our collective focus must be on how to restore order. Make no mistake, a full accounting must take place. Right now, however, both sides must agree to an immediate ceasefire and begin a sustained dialogue to settle political differences.

I also call on Prime Minister Abiy to take a series of actions to facilitate a successful democratic transition. First, barring immediate and incontrovertible evidence of serious crimes, he should release all members of the political opposition. Their continued detention is unacceptable, and I am troubled by reports that their judicial proceedings are being politicized. Second, media and digital rights must be respected. Arresting journalists and imposing internet blackouts harkens back to the dark days of the previous regime. Mr. Prime Minister, such practices must end. You and your colleagues have taken bold action to chart a new course for the country, and I urge you to continue along the difficult path of reform.

Third, the Prime Minister should empower an independent and impartial body to investigate and ascertain responsibility for past acts of violence beyond those related to current hostilities in Tigray. Finally, I call on the Prime Minister to engage in an inclusive dialogue with relevant stakeholders in advance of elections to ensure there is a level playing field and buy-in to the electoral process from all stakeholders.

Although resolving the current crisis requires Ethiopian commitment and action, the United States, along with others in the international community, have a critical role to play. I therefore urge the administration to do the following:

Lead international diplomatic efforts—the administration must reach out to multilateral institutions, allies and partners in the region, the Gulf, and elsewhere to ensure unity around a single message to the federal government and officials in Tigray, there is no military solution to the conflict between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Dialogue is the only path forward. A joint delegation should demarche the Prime Minister with this message and reach out to leaders in Tigray with the same.

Increase support for Ethiopia's democratic transition—the administration should redouble its efforts to support the transition by providing the Embassy and USAID mission with more staff to provide increased monitoring in the areas of democracy and human rights and increased technical assistance in the area of election administration. Funding for grassroots conflict mitigation and reconciliation is critical given ongoing tensions. The United States must also engage all Ethiopian stakeholders, including traditionally marginalized populations, without favor or bias, with the goal of encouraging dialogue between the country's rival political forces. Political disagreements must be settled through peaceful means.

Take an informed, organized, and holistic approach. Civil war in Ethiopia will destabilize the Horn of Africa and has implications for U.S. geostrategic interests in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea corridor writ large. It is critical that the U.S. approach diplomatic engagement in a holistic manner, recognizing the potential ripple effects of prolonged conflict. Negotiations between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt relative to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam—GERD—are only one example of how the conflict could impact stability in the subregion. Progress on the GERD talks is highly unlikely in the face of civil war, since Ethiopia is likely to remain focused on its domestic problems.

Unfortunately, the U.S. approach is currently fractured. The administration has engaged in GERD negotiations as though they are unfolding in a vacuum, divorced from our interests in a strong bilateral partnership with Ethiopia and absent a broader strategy for the Horn of Africa and Red Sea corridor. Even in the parochial context in which we have engaged in GERD negotiations, the administration's actions have, quite frankly, been unhelpful. Having Treasury Department lead the talks was never wise. Treasury lacks the deep regional knowledge and expertise to lead such sensitive negotiations, and there is no evidence that its actions were developed as part of an interagency strategy or policy approach informed by such expertise. It is imperative that a sound strategy be developed and that the State Department take the lead on an integrated diplomatic approach to both the country and the subregion.

Ethiopia faces historic challenges. These challenges can only be met through diplomacy, dialogue, and compromise. The country has a once in a generation opportunity that we must not let slip away. I urge the administration to act while there is still time.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CATHERINE "CATIE" SHUTTERS SUNDIN

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, today, I rise to pay tribute to MAJ Catherine "Catie" Shutters Sundin and her service as an officer in the U.S. Army. I am especially grateful for her support to my office as an Army congressional fellow from January to December 2017 and, later, as the Army congressional budget liaison, where she supported my responsibilities as the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. Major Shutters Sundin will complete her military service in November after more than 12 years of honorable service.

A native of Muskegon, MI, Major Shutters Sundin entered the military as a paralegal in the Indiana Army National Guard. After completing her initial military training, she attended Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College in Lexington, MO, where she commissioned as a second lieutenant. She completed her undergraduate degree in sociology at the University of Central Missouri and accessed into Active-Duty status as an aviation officer. She attended flight school at Fort Rucker, AL, in 2008, graduating as a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot. She also has a master's degree in legislative affairs from the George Washington University.

Major Shutters Sundin has served in a number of assignments during her Army career. Her first assignment as an aviation officer was with the 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. As a small unit leader in Alpha Company, she deployed her platoon to multiple joint training exercises and ultimately to Khost Province in eastern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 12-13. While in combat, she served as task force intelligence officer, where she was charged with leading an intelligence unit that provided threat analysis, briefings to aircrews and leadership, and assisted military decision making.

Upon redeployment, Major Shutters Sundin attended the Maneuver Captains Career Course at Fort Benning, GA, in preparation for her company command at Hunter Army Airfield, GA. There, she commanded Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade from January 2014 to February 2016. Major Shutters Sundin's team of 42 personnel and 10 UH-60M assault helicopters supported a number of training exercises to include a 9-month deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Bravo Company was the first aviation unit to be a

persistent presence in Eastern Europe, where they flew across the Baltic States and Poland to strengthen NATO relationships while deterring against the threat of Russian aggression.

In 2017, as an Army congressional fellow, I had the privilege of working with Major Shutters Sundin in my office for a year and during her subsequent assignment as the Army congressional budget liaison. She worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and their staff to accurately represent the Army's budget positions to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Her professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and her work as a fellow and as a liaison well represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the U.S. Congress.

The foundation of Major Shutter Sundin's military success is her family. Raised in the Midwest as one of five children, her family established particular values early on: service, sacrifice, and compassion. She is a devoted wife to her husband Carl, who also serves as an officer in the U.S. Army. Their commitment to service and care for others infuses every organization to which they belong. Together, they are examples of servant leaders in the U.S. Army and to their communities.

Throughout her career, Major Shutter Sundin has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

Mr. President, it has been a pleasure to have worked with a talented officer. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending MAJ Catherine "Catie" Shutter Sundin for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she explores new ways to continue her service.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING BOYD INDUSTRIES, INC.

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a veteran-owned small business known for excellence and outstanding craftsmanship. This week, it is my pleasure to recognize Boyd Industries, Inc., of Clearwater, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2012, Adrian LaTrace purchased Boyd Industries, a dental and medical equipment manufacturing company that was established in 1957 as a custom residential furniture manufac-

turer. Founder William Boyd pioneered the lounge-style dentistry chair, now a standard feature in dental offices nationwide. As "sit-down" dentistry became more common, Boyd Industries reinvented itself as a cabinet, medical chair, and exam equipment manufacturer.

More than 60 years later, owner and CEO Adrian LaTrace has continued Boyd Industries' tradition of innovation and growth. A native of the Fort Walton Beach-Destin area, Adrian graduated from The Citadel before serving 8 years in the U.S. Air Force. Under his leadership, Boyd has remained committed to its core values of integrity, respect, innovation, loyalty, and dependability. Veterans are the heart of Boyd Industries' workforce, with servicemembers from four branches of the military currently represented at the company.

Attention to detail and high-quality craftsmanship have earned Boyd Industries a reputation for excellence. They are widely regarded as the top oral and implant surgery equipment provider in the nation. Notably, Boyd Industries manufactures the majority of its product components at its Clearwater facility. Additional components are sourced from U.S.-based companies, and Boyd assembles all products in-house.

Under Adrian's leadership, Boyd Industries has earned industry awards and invested in its community. High-quality products have earned Boyd Industries the Townie Choice Award for 8 consecutive years. Laird Plastics recognized Boyd Industries with the Environmental Excellence Award from 2015–2018, citing its increased recycling and sustainability. Collaborating with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the American Association of Orthodontists, Boyd Industries has contributed to developing orthodontist training and best practices, and furnished dental residency training facilities. Additionally, Boyd Industries regularly donates surplus cabinetry to Habitat for Humanity and has supported the Clearwater Free Clinic for decades.

As an essential business, Boyd Industries managed to stay open, keep their employees safe, and adapt to the challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic. In April 2020, the SBA launched the Paycheck Protection Program, a small business relief program I was proud to author. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the coronavirus pandemic. Despite experiencing a drop in revenue, a PPP loan enabled Boyd Industries to retain 77 jobs.

Boyd Industries exemplifies the critical importance of small businesses in the medical manufacturing industrial base. Their outstanding craftsmanship and continual innovation are commendable. Congratulations to Adrian and the entire team at Boyd Industries, Inc. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:51 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1869. An act to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2117. An act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2281. An act to direct the Attorney General to amend certain regulations so that practitioners may administer not more than 3 days' medication to a person at one time when administering narcotic drugs for the purpose of relieving acute withdrawal symptoms.

H.R. 2466. An act to extend the State Opioid Response Grants program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2610. An act to establish an office within the Federal Trade Commission and an outside advisory group to prevent fraud targeting seniors and to direct the Commission to study and submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors and Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2914. An act to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3878. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify the process for registrants to exercise due diligence upon discovering a suspicious order, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4358. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit to Congress a report on preliminary damage assessment and to establish damage assessment teams in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4499. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and for other purposes.