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No. 196

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 18, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

URGENT NEED FOR CORONAVIRUS RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling for immediate action on COVID relief.

It is an outrage that Senate Republicans and the impeached President's administration are more focused on undermining our election integrity and faith in our democracy rather than delivering relief to millions of Americans who are struggling right now.

With over 20 million unemployed and more than 8 million having fallen into poverty, recurring monthly payments are desperately needed to protect the American people from further harm and loss.

Due to the lack of Federal commitment and funding, the maximum amount a worker in my district gets on unemployment is \$362 a week, Mr. Speaker; \$962 under the first stimulus payment. So now you are asking workers, our families, our neighbors, to live with \$362 a week. Not anyone here could survive on that.

Due to the uncontrolled spread of the coronavirus, new stay-at-home orders and business restrictions are necessary to protect our public health.

But we must couple this with orders with strong, recurring Federal support, putting money directly into the pockets of Americans, so they can actually afford to stay home, and support our local governments and businesses on the brink of collapse without more stimulus.

This pandemic has also made clear the need of guaranteeing access to clean water to our neighbors.

Washing one's hands is crucial to preventing illness and spread. We need to treat water as a human right, and ban water shutoffs nationwide, and ensure that every American has what they need to protect themselves during this pandemic.

So, Mr. Speaker, sending stimulus checks, supporting State and local governments, small businesses, and preventing water shutoffs are some of the first steps we must take to not only control the spread of this coronavirus but to recover from its devastation.

I urge my Republican colleagues to please join me in taking urgent action.

RECOGNIZING PERSONNEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, many of us know that the House could not function without the professional non-partisan personnel who ensure that we can do our job. We do at times as an institution pause and thank them, but now it is time for me to do it personally. I thank them for their commitment, dedication, and their hard work.

It would be difficult to start without mentioning the Capitol Police. They are here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Since my time here, some have fallen in the line of duty, others injured protecting those placed in their care. These are only the events that I know. I can only imagine the stories that they could tell. Thank you.

I owe thanks to the Office of the Attending Physician. This concierge service helps us stay healthy and keeps us informed on how this job affects our health. There have been many times when I have watched them scramble to attend to the health needs of a Member or one of our visitors.

In the Army we are fond of saying the Army moves on its stomach. So does the House of Representatives. We and our guests can find food in numerous locations. This morning, I picked up my breakfast right here in the basement of the Capitol. Lunch, who knows, but I do not fret that I will not be able to find something.

When we depart for the day, the cleaning crew comes in. They are long gone by the time most of us arrive the next day.

Mail and newspapers are dropped off by couriers. Lightbulbs are replaced. Pictures are hung up and, in my case, taken down. Photos are taken of us and our guests in major events.

Audiovisual connectivity for Chamber and Committee activities, so the public can observe our deliberations, is ensured. And, again, as I observe this morning, the electronic voting system was turned on and checked.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The recorder takes down every word, sometimes in the heat of a rhetorical exchange, which eventually helps the Chamber sort out the claims, reconcile them, and return to business.

I also want to point out the friendly faces and voices from the Office of the Clerk of the House. Many of them are right in front of me, Mr. Speaker. These nonpartisan employees record, file, keep in order, track time, and help the Speaker or Speaker pro tempore identify Members and call on them.

The wizard of the House is the Parliamentarian and his staff. I have known four over my career. They are the keeper of the Jeffersonian rules and precedents. Any Member who is smart and up to some trickery best run their idea by the Parliamentarian. They will not only provide great counsel, but will keep the discussion confidential.

My thanks go to the Office of Member Services. They processed me in and are now processing me out. They are our office of human resources and, as with everything, as time passes, so do your needs. I have checked with them often over the years, and that has helped prepare for my departure.

Also assisting me is the Office of House Ethics. The last thing I want to do is screw something up as I walk out the door. They, too, are 24/7 and only a phone call away.

Any time you create a list, you risk forgetting someone or some office. If I have done so, please forgive me. It has been a great ride, and the nonpartisan professional staff who cover the everyday activities deserve my thanks and, with that, I thank you.

THE NATION CONTINUES TO FACE AN INCREASINGLY DEADLY PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, as we move into the last weeks of 2020, as we move into a dark and uncertain winter, our Nation continues to face an increasingly deadly pandemic. Grief, economic hardship, and anxiety can be felt in every corner of our country.

Despite the challenges that face our Nation, the past few weeks have seen millions of Americans stand up and make their voices heard.

And millions of Americans have chosen unity over division, stability over chaos, and looked forward to a future filled with faith and hope for a brighter world.

That world requires something from each and every one of us—we all must do our part. We all have a role to play in transforming our aspirations into real, effective progress.

Over the last 2 years, I have heard from thousands of families who have called on my office in a moment of need; a grandparent whose Social Security checks just simply stopped coming; a veteran who desperately needed

an appointment at the VA hospital; a small business that required assistance to keep their employees paid during this pandemic.

For many of these people, their call to my office may have been the first time that they have ever interacted with a government official. It may be the first time that they have ever asked their government for help.

Each and every day, we are called upon to serve our communities in Congress. They are trusting us to do everything that we can to advocate on their behalf.

We must never lose sight of that faith and that trust that they placed in us.

Hardworking families across Georgia, and from around the Nation, understand that the days and the months ahead may be the most important of our lifetime.

And Americans have been very clear. They have asked their leaders to put aside their partisan bickering and focus on American fellowship.

And the mandate that they have given us is one of compassion and cooperation.

It is a mandate to heal fractures and mend their wounds.

It is a mandate to solve problems and protect them.

And it is a mandate to compromise with common sense.

It is a mandate to enact policies that provide every person in this Nation an opportunity to fight for their very own American Dream.

For many years, before I had the honor of serving my community in Congress, I worked as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines, and I shared journeys with people from every corner of our globe and of every color and every creed and of every race and every religion.

Yes, we all come from different backgrounds, and we share different beliefs, and we all belong to different political parties. But what we must understand is that we share a common purpose that transcends partisanship.

We are all uniquely American. We are all far more alike than we are different. We all need to spend time with those that we love, to share our stories with those who make us smile, make us laugh. We all want what is best for our families.

On these journeys across America, I watched first-generation Americans chart a course toward a lifetime of new and exciting experiences.

And I watched men and women in uniform fly home to surprise their young children, their mothers who have been worried sick, their brothers who haven't seen their best friend in years.

I have watched parents beam with pride as they reunited with their new college graduate. After decades of hard work, they knew, with faith and with certainty, that the days of their children would be better than their own.

This is the America that our constituents sent us here to fight for and

sent us here to lead; to preserve the ideas that this Nation was founded upon; to protect the values that must endure long after every single one of us in this Chamber is gone.

Our strength as a Nation has always been on our ability to come together to address America's greatest challenges, which we are in right now. And that is the opportunity that we have in this very moment.

And when we look back at this time in years to come, I pray that we can all take pride in our response; that we fought against all those who seek to sow the seeds of hatred and division—and for all those rooted in peace and prosperity; that we fought to strengthen our fellow Americans with love and with unity; that we fought for progress alongside our brothers and sisters of this great Nation with unshakeable resolve; that we fought for a future that we can all believe in.

RECOGNIZING DANE HAYGOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mayor Dane Haygood of Daphne, who recently retired after 8 successful years in office.

The Jubilee City is truly a jewel of southwest Alabama, and as Baldwin County has experienced the fastest growth in Alabama in recent years, Daphne has led the way. No city could experience such rapid growth while retaining its sense of community without good stewardship, and Mayor Haygood deserves a tremendous amount of credit for his 8 years of steady leadership.

With Mayor Haygood at the helm, Daphne was one of the chief beneficiaries of the past decade of economic expansion in our region.

Mayor Haygood can leave office knowing that Daphne is well positioned to continue on the path to prosperity. I congratulate Mayor Haygood and his family, and I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for them in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING DAVID BAKER

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mayor David Baker of Semmes on his many years of service. Mayor Baker recently left the mayoral office after a distinguished and diverse history of service to his community.

Since Mayor Baker began serving as city councilman for Semmes in 2011, he has always been a highly visible and accessible public servant. While in office, Mayor Baker has overseen a period of growth and annexation, and Semmes is well prepared to continue its growth and meet new challenges.

A proud graduate of the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Mayor Baker retired as an officer in the United States Army after 20 years of honorable service. Since becoming an educator in 2003, countless high school students in the community have benefited from his wise instruction.

I have every confidence Mayor Baker will remain involved in the community, and I wish him and Alice the best in the days ahead.

CONGRATULATING TERRY DOWNEY

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Terry Downey upon his recent retirement. Since his election in 2016, Mayor Downey has guided Bayou la Batre through a series of significant challenges, including several severe hurricanes and the recent pandemic.

Bayou la Batre has a unique heritage as a diverse home with the fishing and seafood processing industries, and Mayor Downey's leadership helped Bayou la Batre weather the storms and protect the livelihoods and culture of its residents. The city is well-prepared to continue handling whatever else may come its way.

I thank Mayor Downey for his service, and I join the people of Bayou la Batre in wishing him all the best in the next stage of his life.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING JIMMY LYONS ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jimmy Lyons upon his retirement as director and CEO of the Alabama State Port Authority.

Over more than two decades, Jimmy's creative, forward-thinking leadership led to transformative growth at one of Alabama's premier assets.

Jimmy's steady stewardship guided the port authority during economic highs and lows. Despite a range of challenges, the port has thrived under his leadership.

With him at the helm, the port is now one of the fastest growing container terminals in the country. It has added a steel terminal and has vastly expanded its ability to load and unload automobiles, and those are just a few examples.

Jimmy also played a critical part in securing upgrades at the port and in the channel that allow a higher number of increasingly large ships from around the globe to use the port with growing ease.

While he will be missed, the Alabama State Port Authority, and Alabama's economy, are better positioned for future success than they have ever been because of Jimmy Lyons. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIVES OF WILLIAM AND EUBER COLLINS

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the lives of two dear friends who recently passed away, William and Euber Collins.

William, known by most as Monty, passed away at 90 years old on November 2, only 1 day before his wife, Euber, who was 88. They were married a remarkable 68 years.

After meeting and falling in love at the University of Alabama, Monty and Euber married and found their way to Mobile. Their close partnership enabled

them to raise four wonderful children and Monty to have a long, successful career, culminating in his retirement from the First National Bank of Mobile.

After his retirement, Monty served as a field representative for my predecessor, Sonny Callahan, and served two terms as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

Throughout their marriage, Monty and Euber maintained a remarkable level of engagement and service to Mobile.

Monty and Euber leave behind a legacy of love for each other, their family, and their community that will be difficult to match in its intensity and longevity. They will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

My heartfelt condolences go out to their family.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DURING PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to address a pressing problem that concerns Americans' constitutional rights. The liberties enshrined in the Constitution still apply to every American, even in the midst of a national emergency.

It is becoming clear to many Americans that our national life has slid toward a double standard. For weeks, officials have asked the public to put life on hold and help fight this virus. The American people did their part and are doing their part, have made sacrifices to help our Nation, and continue to do their part.

But throughout this pandemic, we have seen a troubling trend of State leaders leaning on religious institutions harder than any other group or organization.

In 2018, Pope Francis, while addressing "red martyrdom," those who face death and persecution on account of their religious beliefs, also warned our nations about "white martyrdom," which occurs in democratic countries when freedom of religion is restricted.

So far, lawsuits claiming that State restrictions on religious gatherings infringe on freedom of religion have been filed in Kentucky, California, Louisiana, Virginia, and elsewhere.

In Virginia, at Lighthouse Fellowship Church's Palm Sunday service, there were only 16 people present, all properly socially distanced. Yet, the pastor was subjected, Mr. Speaker, to a criminal citation.

In Kansas, two churches settled with Democratic Governor Laura Kelly after they sued over her 10-person limit for religious services. A Federal judge ruled that the State appeared to have singled out religious activities for stricter treatment. Now, Kansas churches can hold those services as long as they abide by the protocols for businesses and other establishments,

such as providing hand sanitizer, face masks, and social distancing.

In Kentucky, despite claiming that his order allowed congregants to attend drive-through services, Governor Andy Beshear had State police leave notices to self-isolate on churchgoers' windshields on Easter Sunday service at the Maryville Baptist Church outside of Louisville.

In defiance of the Governor's mandate, Pastor Jack Roberts, along with congregants, ripped up those notices and filed a lawsuit.

Mr. Speaker, a Federal appeals court sided with the pastor and blocked part of Beshear's order, allowing congregants to attend drive-in services. In the ruling, the three-judge panel of the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals expressed support for the church's argument that it wasn't being treated fairly, noting "hundreds" of cars parked in the lot of the nearby grocery store on the same day the police informed churchgoers that they were violating the law.

"The breadth of the ban on religious services, together with a haven for numerous secular exceptions, should give pause to anyone who prizes religious freedom." That is what the judges wrote.

They continued, "But it is not always easy to decide what is Caesar's and what is God's, and that is assuredly true in the context of a pandemic."

Mr. Speaker, I commend the judges for standing up for the fundamental right of religious freedom, including the freedom of worship.

Americans have shown that they can convene for religious services in a responsible way. The compassion and care for communities of faith throughout the pandemic are needed now more than ever.

Our first Chief Executive, President Washington, prized our First Amendment to the Constitution, saying, "No one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny and every species of religious persecution."

Let's urge our colleagues in Congress, our State legislatures, our Governors, and down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to honor Washington's passion for our enshrined right to religious liberty.

CALLING FOR TARGETED COVID RELIEF

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, during this lame duck session, this House needs bipartisan leadership to achieve critical, needed COVID relief for central Arkansas.

The majority of these issues are easy and have significant bipartisan support.

We need to extend and expand the Paycheck Protection Program and ease paycheck protection forgiveness.

Pandemic unemployment payments need to be addressed in a way to help families but also encourage work.

Finally, States need flexibility on spending money from the CARES Act,

and they need to change the deadline from the end of this year, 12/31, to a time in 2021.

We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

We call on Speaker PELOSI to call targeted, focused relief to the House floor today.

REMEMBERING MARINE CORPORAL RONALD R. PAYNE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SPANO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the legacy of Marine Corporal Ronald R. Payne, Jr., a local hero who proudly served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps and was killed in combat on May 7, 2004.

Payne graduated from Mulberry High School as a star football and basketball player.

As a marine, Payne had been part of the initial force that invaded Iraq and entered Baghdad. He then volunteered to return for a second overseas tour. He was initially sent to Afghanistan to help with elections but was then sent into combat.

Corporal Payne will be remembered as the first marine killed serving in Afghanistan.

He will also be remembered as a man of faith. A late journal entry reads, "The fear is starting to turn into excitement. Besides, what do I have to be afraid of really? I have God on my side, and He said He will never leave us nor forsake us. Having Him is better than any type of support or weapon that man can give."

To his family, our district still mourns Ron's loss. I salute you for raising such a hero who was also such a servant.

REMEMBERING STAFF SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN REINERS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Staff Sergeant John Allen Reinners, a local hero from Florida's 15th District who served our country in the Armed Forces and who was sadly killed in combat in the Afghanistan theater.

After participating in Junior ROTC for 4 years and graduating from Haines City High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and then began with the Army Rangers.

He served at Fort Drum, New York, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and, during this time, also did two tours in Iraq, where he received his first Purple Heart.

In 2001, Staff Sergeant Reinners died of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Zhari Province.

He was awarded his second Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal posthumously for his valiant service and dedication to his team.

At home, Reinners was also a devoted husband to Casey and father to Lex.

To the entire Reinners family, our district and community still mourn

John's loss. He was truly the epitome of a great American soldier, and his sacrifices will not be forgotten.

REMEMBERING SPECIALIST RYAN MICHAEL LUMLEY

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and legacy of Specialist Ryan Lumley, a devoted husband and son who served this country in the Armed Forces and was killed in combat in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, on December 3, 2011.

Ryan graduated from Cedar Key High School in 2008, joined the U.S. Army in 2009, and soon thereafter reported to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, where he excelled with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Unfortunately, at the young age of 21, Ryan lost his life to an improvised explosive device.

Due to his outstanding service and dedication to our country, Ryan was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and several other badges and ribbons.

Ryan is survived by his wife, Kimber, a loving family, and many hometown friends who remember him fondly for his strong character and patriotism.

While some time has passed since his departure, may his legacy continue to uplift his loved ones and encourage a grateful Nation.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT DANIEL MCKINNON ANGUS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sergeant Daniel McKinnon Angus, a local hero of Florida's 15th District who was killed in action in Afghanistan on January 24, 2010.

Daniel graduated from Armwood High School in 2000 and, in 2003, joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he knew he belonged and hoped to make a career of serving his community and his country.

Daniel stood out among his peers and received a Combat Action Ribbon, two Good Conduct Medals, the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and a number of service decorations.

He loved spending time with his wife, Bonnie, and his 1-year-old daughter, now 11 years old. May she always know and treasure the knowledge of her father's heroism.

You see, men and women like Daniel, who are willing to lay down their lives in defense of our country and in support of others many miles away, are what makes our Nation the greatest on Earth.

Let us never take their sacrifice or that of their surviving families in vain.

DEFENDING MOTION TO RECOMMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that House Demo-

crats are considering a rule change that would severely limit the rights of the minority party in the House for years to come.

I am referring to the partisan push to water down or to eliminate the motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, the MTR, as it is called, is a critical procedural tool that gives the minority party one last opportunity to improve legislation before a final vote on this House floor. An MTR not only increases transparency between Members of Congress and their constituents, but it holds Members accountable and forces them to go on record for viewpoints that they hold.

Weakening the MTR would only serve to shield Members from criticism, suffocate debate on key policy issues, and overturn longstanding House precedent. It would be a blatant power grab by the majority Democrat Party.

That is why my colleagues and I will be appealing to the Rules Committee this week in writing, demanding that the MTR be preserved.

CONFRONTING VOTER FRAUD

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2 weeks, I have heard from an overwhelming number of my constituents, and they do not have confidence in the integrity of November's election.

They are outraged that media pundits and establishment Democrat politicians are sneering at the very concept of taking the time to ensure that every legal vote is counted and that every illegal vote is thrown out.

Every citizen has a right to seek justice in a court of law, and that includes the President of the United States. His legal team needs to be given the time to collect and present evidence of voting and tabulation irregularities.

Until the courts have played their constitutional role, we should be wary of declaring winners and losers.

Look, if we could spend 2 years investigating conspiracy theories about Russian collusion, we should be able to take a few weeks to confirm the integrity of this election.

I am glad that Attorney General Bill Barr authorized the Department of Justice to investigate any and all allegations of illegal activity. He took this necessary step after 38 of my House colleagues and I requested that the Department leave no stone unturned in this effort.

We will also be introducing legislation this very week that will require the DOJ to create a national strategy to identify and combat voter intimidation, fraud, ballot system glitches, sabotage, and hacking.

Mr. Speaker, voting is the most sacred civic duty in our Nation. In an election for our Nation's highest office, involving unprecedented levels of mail-in voting, we must take the time to ensure that every legal vote is counted and every illegal vote is not counted.

Nothing is more important than the integrity of our ballots.

□ 1030

ANOTHER ABDICATION OF DUTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it has become quite apparent over the past few months that House Democrats just don't want to show up for work. They rallied behind proxy voting the moment the idea was conjured up, and ever since, they have become complacent in their duties.

The American people are showing up to work because their livelihoods depend on it. But when it comes to Democrat Members of Congress, it is the exact opposite. What a stark contrast.

For months, my Republican colleagues and I have made the trip from our districts to Washington to conduct the business of the people's House in the open. We have been present at committee hearings, votes, and other important functions, but it certainly seems that our Democrat colleagues don't share that same level of commitment.

What does that tell you about them?

Mr. Speaker, we can't ignore the fact that we are in the middle of a global pandemic, but that does not mean that we get to abdicate our duties as Members of Congress. Members of the United States Senate have shown up to conduct their business.

So why isn't the House doing the same?

What is concerning most of all is that the initial endeavor to implement proxy voting has now evolved into something more asinine: vote by text.

This attempt to consolidate power by Speaker PELOSI is just another feeble move, and one that runs counter to the operation of this deliberative body that has stood for hundreds of years, yet House Democrats seem perfectly content with this idea.

The American notion of showing up to work and fulfilling your duties seems to be a foreign concept to them. If they spent their time working, and less time looking for ways to get out of work, we would be making progress.

This is not an effective way to legislate and, in the end, the American people are the ones who will bear the brunt of this imprudent course of action.

The people's House must return to regular order, and if we keep kicking the can down the road on conducting business in the open, this institution will become rife with complacency. It is time we get back to work. Stop the delays. Stop the political ploys. The American people are counting on us.

CONGRESS ELECTS PRESIDENT IF NO ELECTORAL COLLEGE WINNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is the second in the series of

House floor speeches by me on the recent Presidential elections.

Previously, I covered constitutional and Federal statutory law mandating that Congress—not the Supreme Court—decides whether to accept or reject States' electoral college vote submissions.

Today's remarks focus on who decides a Presidential election if no candidate receives an electoral college majority vote because of a tie, because multiple candidates split the electoral college vote, or because Congress rejected State electoral college votes.

Per the United States Constitution's 12th Amendment, Congress—not the Supreme Court—elects the next President and Vice President of the United States if no candidate wins an electoral college vote majority. Congress' decision is final, determinative, and non-reviewable.

The 12th Amendment states that if no candidate has a majority of the electoral college vote, then, from the three highest vote-getters for President, "the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote . . . and a majority of all of the States shall be necessary to a choice."

As an aside, the 12th Amendment requires the Senate to elect the Vice President. There is a twist in the House vote for President. A majority of Congressmen does not elect the President. Rather, the House votes by State delegations to elect the next President of the United States.

America has 50 States. After the 2020 elections, 26 State delegations have a Republican majority. Twenty States have a Democrat majority. The remaining State delegations are tied 50/50, with Iowa undecided pending an uncalled election.

Hence, if Congress rejects electoral college votes from States with election processes that are so badly flawed as to be unreliable and unworthy of acceptance, House Republicans control the election of the next President of the United States.

Let me repeat that for emphasis. House Republicans control the election of the next President of the United States.

For emphasis, the 12th Amendment has, on occasion, resulted in Congress electing the next President of the United States.

For example, in 1824, Andrew Jackson led the electoral college with 99 votes, to 85 votes for John Quincy Adams, to 41 votes for William Crawford, to 37 votes for House Speaker Henry Clay. The House elected second place finisher John Quincy Adams President of the United States over first place finisher Andrew Jackson, prompting Andrew Jackson to famously declare, "The Judas of the West has closed the contract and will receive the 30 pieces of silver . . . Was

there ever witnessed such a bare faced corruption in any country before?"

Another example is the 1876 election, wherein Democrat Samuel Tilden won the popular vote and amassed 184 electoral college votes, one shy of Ohio Republican Rutherford B. Hayes' 185 electoral college votes.

Louisiana's, Florida's, and South Carolina's electoral college votes were disputed because it strained credibility to believe these States voted Republican while still suffering from the destructive effects of a Republican-led invasion during the Civil War. Congress appointed a 15-member commission to study the matter, which split on party lines: eight Republicans for Hayes, seven Democrats for Tilden.

Congress then elected Hayes President of the United States in a deal that gave Louisiana's, Florida's, and South Carolina's disputed electoral college votes to Hayes in exchange for removing occupying Union troops from the South and ending reconstruction.

In sum, the history and law are clear: Congress, not the Supreme Court, determines who wins or loses Presidential elections.

PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS CONCERNED ABOUT VOTING IRREGULARITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, many of the voters in Pennsylvania and in my district are rightfully upset and concerned about the irregular actions which occurred in the past election. There are valid reasons for the collective feeling of disenfranchisement and of distrust stemming from various election processes and procedural changes which were outside of statute.

Thousands—no—millions in Pennsylvania have a feeling of intense frustration and believe that their constitutional rights have been violated. To start, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court granted a 3-day extension for late-arriving ballots, usurping the authority of the State legislature and contradicting the U.S. Constitution, which clearly states: "The times, places, and manner of holding elections shall be prescribed in each State by the legislature thereof."

These constitutional authorities are not fair-weather laws, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. The highly irregular actions of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court resulted in the unlawful counting of over 10,000 ballots that arrived after the statutory required time of 8 p.m. on election day—nobody disputes this—mitigating an accurate ballot count and, at the same time, fueling great distrust in the process.

Second, there are serious disputes over how individual mail-in ballots with technical errors were handled across the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania State law dictates that mail-in

ballots must be signed, dated, and included in a secrecy envelope, and that ballots that are missing required information and/or signatures should be disqualified or, at a minimum, authenticated.

Just hours before polls opened, the secretary of state of Pennsylvania issued inconsistent and contradictory guidance, giving Pennsylvania counties the authority to decide whether to reject ballots that contained discrepancies or take additional measures to correct them. This happened. This is a highly irregular thing to do.

As a result, Philadelphia, Montgomery, Allegheny, and Bucks County, four of the largest counties in Pennsylvania, allowed literally thousands and thousands of ballots to be fixed or cured, a measure not pursued by most other counties and which violated State election law.

Third, Republican poll watchers in Philadelphia were kept at an unreasonable distance to observe the pre-canvassing and canvassing of ballots. Even after a court ruling allowed poll watchers closer access, Philadelphia officials actually appealed the order to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Why would local election officials make the process blatantly more restrictive to poll watchers, some of whom resorted to using binoculars to do their jobs?

This, too, actually happened. An estimated 687,000 ballots were counted during this time of no lawfully required poll watchers. Such actions, Mr. Speaker, raise very legitimate doubts surrounding transparency and accountability of Presidential election.

Further adding to the frustration and distrust felt by millions in Pennsylvania, the media projected the outcome while such valid disputes were outstanding before due process took place and well before judicial rulings were made.

In Pennsylvania, the cases before the courts could involve tens of thousands of ballots, of votes, an amount, if deemed unlawful, would mandate an automatic recount. In a close election, counting all legal votes takes time, yet it is absolutely essential to assure to a candidate, but more so to the voters, that the vote count be honest, lawful, and fair.

The implications for our country are significant now and beyond 2020. Along with a fair election of the United States of America President, what is at stake here is the integrity of our election process and the faith the American people have in it.

CONGRATULATING JIMMY RAY
FOR BEING VETERAN OF THE
YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jimmy Ray of Chatham County for being rec-

ognized as Veteran of the Year by the Veterans Council of Chatham County.

Georgia's First Congressional District is home to many of our Nation's veterans, so being recognized as Veteran of the Year is an incredible honor. With this title, Jimmy will represent the Veterans Council at various events throughout the year.

Jimmy is a past commander of the American Legion, Chatham Post 36, which is an organization dedicated to advocating for patriotism across the United States. Among his many lifetime achievements, he helped spearhead the fundraising and construction of the World War II Memorial on River Street in Savannah.

He has also been an active member of the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for 35 years, and was even the 2013 parade grand marshal.

I can't thank Jimmy enough for his outstanding service to our Nation throughout his life, and I want to congratulate him again on this wonderful accomplishment.

CONGRATULATING SCDATACOM, LLC FOR RECEIVING PLATINUM AWARD FROM HIRE VETS MEDALLION PROGRAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate scDataCom, LLC, for being selected as an awardee of the HIRE Vets Medallion Program.

The program was established by the Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017, or the HIRE Vets Act.

The HIRE Vets Medallion Program is the only Federal program that recognizes and honors job creators for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining our Nation's veterans. I am proud to say scDataCom, LLC, which is based out of Savannah, Georgia, achieved this small platinum award.

In order to qualify for this particular award, at least 10 percent of the employees must be veterans. ScDataCom is a nationally recognized small business specializing in the design, installation, and service of physical and electronic security systems for both private and public sector clients.

It was founded by Alaina and Kathleen, a successful mother-daughter duo. I want to congratulate Alaina and Kathleen again for this wonderful accomplishment. I am thankful for the work they do to serve their community and veterans, and I wish them the best.

CONGRATULATING CAMDEN COUNTY FOR RECEIVING CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Camden County in Georgia's First Congressional District for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Camden County was recognized for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR, for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2019.

The CAFR is judged by an impartial panel, and the high standards of the program include demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure. In doing this, Camden County clearly communicated its financial story.

This is a great honor because the certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Camden County and its management for this significant accomplishment, and I express my gratitude for the work that they do for our community.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING BRIAN A. MIXON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brian Mixon on his retirement after 4 years of Active Duty and 32 years of civilian service with the Department of the Army.

Brian served honorably as an air traffic and airspace officer and was recognized for his work when he was awarded the Air Traffic Control Manager of the Year Award by the Air Traffic Control Association in 2019. The national award is formally known as the General E.R. Quesada Memorial Award, and it is a medallion award presented to an individual for outstanding achievement and contribution during the previous year as an air traffic control manager.

This is not the first time Brian has been recognized for his exceptional work. He also earned two other national awards, among many others.

Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia's First Congressional District is one of the premier power projection platforms in the Army, which is utilized to deploy thousands of soldiers and essential equipment. Brian's contributions have been essential to the readiness capabilities of the units that utilized Hunter Army Airfield.

Mr. Speaker, I can't thank Brian enough for his many years of steadfast dedication in serving our great Nation, and I wish him the best as he begins his retirement.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these few days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

In our world, there are many places where peace is lacking and cause for thanksgiving rare. Send Your spirit of peace upon our world. Help us all see in those we view as enemies our brothers and sisters.

As infections continue to spread, and hospitals nationwide are pressed to their limits, inspire all leaders to step forward in a unified response, protect and empower those who care for the sick, and bring healing to all who suffer during this plague.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARDER of California 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now take this opportunity to make an announcement concerning floor practice during the coronavirus pandemic.

First, the Chair wishes to underscore the importance of safe practices during votes. As the Chair stated on July 29, 2020, under clause 2 of rule I, the Chair is required to preserve order and decorum in the Chamber. This includes the responsibility to ensure the protection of Member and staff health and safety during proceedings.

To that end, based upon health and safety guidance from the attending physician and the Sergeant at Arms, the Chair would advise that all Members should leave the Chamber promptly after casting their votes. Furthermore, Members should avoid congregating in the rooms leading to the Chamber, including the Speaker's lobby.

As a reminder, the Chair will continue the recent practice of providing small groups of Members with a minimum of 5 minutes within which to cast their votes. Members are encouraged to vote with their previously assigned group. After voting, Members must clear the Chamber to allow the

next group a safe and sufficient opportunity to vote.

It is essential for the health and safety of Members, staff, and the U.S. Capitol Police to consistently practice social distancing and to ensure that a safe capacity be maintained in the Chamber at all times. The Sergeant at Arms is directed to enforce this policy.

Second, the Chair wishes to remind Members that the announcement of July 29, 2020, regarding the wearing of masks in the Hall of the House remains in effect. Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask. Masks will be available at the entry points for any Member who forgets to bring one.

To reiterate, the Chair views the failure to wear masks as a serious breach of decorum.

I repeat, Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask.

The Chair appreciates the attention of all Members and staff to these principles.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON?

(Mr. HARDER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask: What the hell is happening in Washington?

I am not one to spend my time throwing bombs on this floor, but during this single minute, another American will die from COVID, and even more people are slipping into poverty because this town can't get its act together.

I have had enough.

Millions of people can't get to work. They can't put food on the table. They are missing rent or mortgage payments.

Since we passed the CARES Act, which was a strong step forward, the best this town can do is finger-pointing.

It is disgusting.

Everyone believes we are incapable of doing our jobs, and right now, we are proving them right.

The reality is, there is plenty of blame to go around, but Americans need another stimulus check. They needed it months ago.

We need expanded unemployment back, especially now that cases are exploding at a higher rate than at any other point during this pandemic.

It is time to grow up. It is time to do what we are paid for. It is time to do our jobs.

PASS SOS ACT TO HELP LIVE MUSIC VENUES SURVIVE PANDEMIC SHUTDOWNS

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Save Our Cities and Stages Act, better known as the Save Our Stages Act, as a stand-alone bill so that independent live music venues can survive and recover from COVID-19.

During this pandemic, these venues have been hardest hit, as they were the first to close and will be among the last to reopen due to safety restrictions and government mandates.

They generate billions of dollars in our national economy and create thousands of jobs every year. They are a cultural staple in central Texas and the 25th District, unlike any other place in our Nation.

Over the last several months, I have had the privilege of working with owners and managers of dozens of venues like Hudson's On Mercer Street in Dripping Springs, Songbird Live in Cleburne, and The Broken Spoke in Austin to highlight the urgency of passing this legislation.

It is crucial we deliver, not only for their livelihoods, but for the artists who start out on their stages and the future generations inspired by their work. Every day we waste is detrimental to this industry.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Speaker PELOSI to bring the Save Our Stages Act to the House floor for a vote.

In God we trust.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AT WORK

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud of American democracy, and I want to talk about American democracy.

In this election, record numbers of voters turned out to cast their ballots, with very few voting irregularities.

A record number of young people turned out to cast their ballots and express their voice by voting.

We saw civil servants and folks tabulating those ballots. We saw American democracy at work, and we ought to be proud of that.

On January 20, we will welcome President Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS in a peaceful transfer of power.

God bless the United States, and God bless our democracy.

CONGRATULATING DONNA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Givens

upon her retirement after a long and accomplished career at Baldwin EMC.

Donna's community involvement and professional accolades have led me and many others to call her the Queen of Baldwin County.

I do not bestow that designation lightly. I have known and worked with Donna for many years, dating back to my time in the Alabama State Senate two decades ago. She was a force even then, and her level of service and influence in southwest Alabama have only grown.

She is recognized across the region for being an asset to Baldwin EMC and their thousands of customers as well as the community at large.

I wish Donna my sincerest best wishes in her retirement. I have no doubt she will remain a fixture in the community she so humbly and ably serves.

FEDERAL EXECUTIONS DURING A PANDEMIC IS MORALLY BANKRUPT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the Federal Government will execute a Black man named Orlando Hall in the middle of a deadly pandemic that is spiking toward unprecedented levels. The death penalty is cruel, unusual, barbaric, and immoral.

Mr. Hall will be the eighth prisoner executed under Bill Barr's leadership since June—eight expedited executions since June in this country—and the first by a lame duck President in a century, the eighth one being done tomorrow.

Carrying out Federal executions during a deadly pandemic puts hundreds of people at risk, from local community members, to Bureau of Prison employees, to lawyers and advocates.

The Trump administration's choice to risk life in an expedited rush to take life is morally bankrupt.

To quote my dear friend and late colleague Elijah Cummings, we, as United States citizens, are better than this.

CONGRATULATING MOLDOVA'S NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT MAIA SANDU

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to former Prime Minister Maia Sandu on being elected the new President of Moldova on Sunday.

Correspondent Corneliu Rusnac has reported, "Pro-Western candidate wins Moldovan Presidential election," and that "Maia Sandu, a former World Bank economist who favors closer ties with the European Union, has won Moldova's Presidential runoff vote, de-

cisively defeating the staunchly pro-Russian incumbent, according to preliminary results released Monday."

It should always be remembered that Moldova was the first victim of Putin-maintained aggression by the occupation of Transnistria in 1991, which was a tragic prelude to the illegal Putin occupation of territories in the Republic of Georgia in 2008 and eastern Ukraine in 2014, where over 13,000 citizens have died. All three illegal Putin occupations persist today.

Americans are so grateful for this renewed opportunity to work with Moldova and congratulate the Moldovan people on their new President.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

God bless the people of Moldova.

□ 1215

DESPERATE CALL FOR HELP MUST BE ANSWERED

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic is raging; 1 million cases in a single week; more than 100,000 cases each day since November 4.

Yet, as we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, I am so grateful for the nonprofit community organizations that are helping to get us through this: neighbors helping neighbors, serving meals, caring for seniors, and those with disabilities, housing, and job assistance, and more.

They are essential cords of our safety net, but that safety net is fraying. Calls to Broward County's 211 helpline quadrupled when the pandemic hit, and have seen a surge ever since.

With Federal assistance expiring, the calls get more desperate, and now the helpers are calling for help. Congress must answer that call. There is nothing more important in this body right now than getting help out to our communities.

The House, the Senate, the White House must get that help through the COVID-19 wave that is crashing across our country as we begin this holiday season.

The American people are desperate—desperate, Mr. Speaker. We can wait no longer.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RODERIC WOODRUFF GROAT, A/K/A ROD WOOD

(Mr. KATKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of central New York broadcasting legend Roderic Woodruff Groat, and to celebrate his retirement after more

than 50 years on television in our community.

Better known as "Rod Wood," he is a household name in central New York and a trusted source of news throughout our region. For five decades, he has been there to deliver the news to families throughout our community.

Before beginning his career in broadcasting, Rod proudly served in the U.S. Army with the 504th Military Police Battalion. In 1976, he worked on NewsChannel 9, and has been a fixture at the station ever since.

Outside of work, Rod is extremely devoted to his family. He stood in support of his wife, Nanette, through her 9-year battle with cancer, and proudly celebrated 52 years of marriage before her passing earlier this year. Together, Rod and Nanette raised 5 children and were blessed with 10 grandchildren.

The dean of central New York broadcasting, our community will truly miss welcoming Rod Wood into our communities and our homes every evening.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Rod Wood for a remarkable 50-year career in journalism. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress representing the Virgin Islands, I came to Congress determined to increase long-term Federal investment in infrastructure, among other things.

I congratulate the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman, Mr. DEFAZIO; Highways and Transit Subcommittee chair, Ms. NORTON; and other committees for H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act.

In the midst of so much uncertainty in the economy during the current public health crisis, the American people need the certainty of H.R. 2 to count on stable and strong investment in infrastructure to sustain and create jobs, and enhance the mobility and safety of American motorists, passengers, and throughput systems.

The Moving Forward Act makes a real investment in America, especially in underserved districts like my own. While all of the States have received small and steady increases in funding over the recent decade, severe cuts have disproportionately and negatively affected Americans in U.S. territories.

In the meantime, substandard highways, roads, and stormwater infrastructure have further affected harsh weather patterns. In my district, we still feel the aftermath of major category 5 hurricanes every day. It has been our new normal for some time before the current COVID normal.

We know firsthand that there are areas throughout this country that are

in desperate need of revitalizing infrastructure. The American people and businesses are rightly concerned with the infrastructure.

In the 117th Congress, we must show our constituents that the next Congress is determined to build America back better.

CONGRATULATING MARILYN BLACK ON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marilyn Black of Oil City, Pennsylvania, and congratulate her on her retirement.

I cannot possibly overstate Marilyn's impact on Oil City and the surrounding area. Marilyn served as the vice president for Heritage Development of the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism for 15 years.

In those 15 years, Marilyn worked tirelessly to preserve the region's heritage in some of the region's most precious historical sites, including: the Tarbell House, Neilltown Church, and Coal Oil Johnny House, just to name a few.

Marilyn's hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. Earlier this year, Bill Moon, the mayor of Oil City, Pennsylvania, declared June 13 to be Marilyn Black Day.

I think Betsy Kellner, secretary of the Oil Region Alliance's board of directors, summed it up best: "When you look around the community at the many accomplishments that have happened, you can see Marilyn's touch."

When Marilyn is not hard at work for the oil region, she enjoys the outdoors, spending time fishing, boating, kayaking, hiking, and more.

I would like to send my very best wishes to Marilyn as she begins her much-deserved retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CONDEMNING ACTS BY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION THAT VIOLATE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1033) condemning acts by the People's Republic of China and

the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that violate fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1033

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China ("PRC") is legally bound to guarantee the civil liberties of the people of Hong Kong through 2047 and the "Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong" (hereafter the "Joint Declaration"), in which the People's Republic of China committed that for 50 years, the basic policies would remain unchanged, including keeping the "social and economic systems in Hong Kong" unchanged;

Whereas Article 39 of the Basic Law of Hong Kong mandates that: "The provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and international labour conventions as applied to Hong Kong shall remain in force and shall be implemented through the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region";

Whereas the Joint Declaration states that "Rights and freedoms, including those of the person, of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of travel, of movement, of correspondence, of strike, of choice of occupation, of academic research and of religious belief will be ensured by law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" and that those rights are reiterated in Chapter III of the Basic Law;

Whereas Chapter III of the Basic Law of Hong Kong guarantees Hong Kong residents other specific rights and freedoms, including—

- (1) freedom of speech, of the press, and of publication;
- (2) freedom of association, of assembly, of procession, and of demonstration;
- (3) the right and freedom to form and join trade unions and to strike;
- (4) freedom from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention, or imprisonment;
- (5) freedom from arbitrary or unlawful search of, or intrusion into, a Hong Kong resident's home or other premises;
- (6) freedom and privacy of communication;
- (7) freedom of movement within the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR");
- (8) freedom of emigration to other countries and regions;
- (9) freedom of conscience; and
- (10) the right to institute legal proceedings in the courts against the acts of the executive authorities and their personnel;

Whereas the PRC National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) has inserted a national security law directly into Annex III of the Basic Law of Hong Kong, and said national security law is purportedly intended to prevent and punish acts of "separating the country, subverting state power, and organizing terroristic activities";

Whereas said action is a flagrant violation of Hong Kong's autonomy and rule of law in that Article 18 of the Basic Law provides that laws included in Annex III are "confined to those relating to defense and foreign affairs as well as other matters outside the limits of the autonomy of the Region as specified by this Law";

Whereas Article 11 of the Joint Declaration states that "The maintenance of public order

in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will be the responsibility of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region";

Whereas the national security law promulgated by the NPCSC violates Article 11 of the Joint Declaration by establishing PRC entities in Hong Kong with powers over public order;

Whereas Article 23 further specifies that "[Hong Kong] shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government";

Whereas through a similar abuse of Annex III of the Basic Law of Hong Kong, the PRC Government caused the adoption of the National Anthem Law in Hong Kong, which curtails the freedom of speech and carries a maximum sentence of 3 years, mirroring the extent of sentence under the People's Republic of China Criminal Law;

Whereas the PRC Government's repeated and heavy-handed actions to undermine the rule of law in Hong Kong and Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy will only further escalate the ongoing protests and increase public disapproval of the PRC and the HKSAR Government, jeopardizing Hong Kong's future as an open and prosperous international city;

Whereas the full Chinese-language text of the national security legislation was not revealed until the Hong Kong Chief Executive promulgated the law in Hong Kong at 11 p.m. on June 30, 2020, making it only the second law since 2008 that the NPCSC has passed without releasing a draft for public comment; and

Whereas the imposition of this national security legislation, which undermines the established rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents provided in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, constitutes a violation of commitments made by the PRC under international law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) underscores that democratic societies around the world stand in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong, who face grave threats to their inviolable rights and freedoms;

(2) condemns the action by the People's Republic of China's National People's Congress to advance national security legislation for Hong Kong through irregular procedures, which constitutes a violation of the letter and spirit of the Joint Declaration, and the Basic Law which is the implementing document of the Joint Declaration;

(3) asserts that such actions by the People's Republic of China undermine its credibility within the international community, including the People's Republic of China's credibility in honoring its commitments to international agreements and respecting internationally recognized human rights;

(4) calls on the People's Republic of China to immediately rectify provisions of the national security law inconsistent with the Joint Declaration and other provisions of the Basic Law including—

(A) the judicial processes for national security cases; and

(B) the law's asserted extraterritorial jurisdiction; and

(5) advises the President, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Treasury to coordinate with allies and partners to respond to developments in Hong Kong, including by—

(A) appointing a United Nations Special Envoy for Hong Kong;

(B) encouraging all relevant United Nations special rapporteurs to closely monitor and report on People's Republic of China's policies in Hong Kong, including the Special

Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the Special Rapporteur on torture, and the Working Group on arbitrary detention;

(C) providing Hong Kong residents who face well-founded fears of persecution an opportunity to emigrate from, or not be compelled to return to, Hong Kong;

(D) condemning the People's Republic of China for promulgating national security legislation in Hong Kong which contravenes the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law; and

(E) establishing other measures, including economic sanctions, to hold the People's Republic of China accountable for contravention of international law and human rights norms with respect to Hong Kong.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 1033, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York.

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have authored this bipartisan resolution with my friend, Ranking Member MCCAUL. This summer, Beijing imposed a national security law in Hong Kong, the latest step in Xi Jinping's campaign to undermine Hong Kong's autonomy and criminalize any opposition.

In the last few weeks, we have seen China escalate efforts to squash all dissent and attack Hong Kongers' rights. They have rounded up and arrested prodemocracy activists in Hong Kong and even issued an arrest warrant for a U.S. citizen. They have purged prodemocracy duly elected leaders from the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, one of the most important democratic institutions in the city and the single greatest example of the one country, two systems framework under attack from Beijing.

The Chinese Government's actions violate the will of the Hong Kong people and Beijing's commitment to the international community made under the Sino-British Joint Declaration. H. Res. 1033 condemns Beijing's effort to further erode Hong Kong's autonomy, undermine its independent judiciary, and oppress its people.

This measure urges the administration to work with our allies and partners to hold China accountable for its flagrant violations of international law

and assaults on Hong Kongers and their fundamental rights.

It also pushes for emigration options for Hong Kongers facing well-founded fears of persecution. This resolution is an important demonstration of our bipartisan commitment to democratic freedoms in Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1033, Chairman ENGEL's resolution condemning the violation of Hong Kong's freedom. On June 30, the Chinese Communist Party, or the CCP, used its sham legislature to enforce a dystopian national security law on Hong Kong.

This law criminalizes basic civil liberties, destroyed the one country, two systems model of autonomy for Hong Kong, and inserts the CCP's police state in Hong Kong to crush dissent. After more than a year of a prodemocracy movement that inspired people around the world to fight for liberty over tyranny, this law was the CCP's response.

Rather than tolerate criticism and consider reform, they doubled down on totalitarianism. The CCP violated their international obligations, obliterated Hong Kong's freedom, and shredded the Sino-British Treaty that guaranteed human rights in Hong Kong.

Since the law was enacted, we have seen countless young people arrested for free speech. Others have disappeared into mainland Chinese black prisons. The CCP has canceled elections to prevent opposition victories. Just last week, the CCP used its sham legislature to assert full control over the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, destroying Hong Kong's last remaining shreds of self-government.

They know that the Communist Party cannot survive with free-thinking people. The CCP's human rights abuses in Hong Kong are far from over, but neither is Hong Kong's fight for freedom.

Chairman ENGEL's resolution continues our bipartisan work to call out the CCP's abuse and stand with Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the ranking member. I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) for joining with me to introduce this measure condemning Beijing's violations of international law and attacks on Hong Kong's democratic freedoms. It is really important that we speak with one voice—both Democrats and Republicans—to let Beijing know that we are not just going to close our eyes to what they are doing to the people of Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this very important resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, we no longer see American flags flying over the thousands of protesters in the streets of Hong Kong. Displaying our symbol of liberty has become a criminal act punishable by life in prison. But even though the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong can no longer ask for our support, we still hear their call. It is more important than ever to continue to stand with Hong Kong.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for offering this resolution, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1033, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution Condemning acts by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that violate fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING SIGNIFICANCE OF GENUINE AUTONOMY OF TIBET AND TIBETAN PEOPLE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 697) recognizing the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the Tibetan people and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 697

Whereas the Dalai Lama's principal commitments include cultivation of warm-heartedness and such human values as compassion and forgiveness; promotion of religious harmony; and preservation of Tibetan language and culture and protection of Tibet's natural environment;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has stated, "I remain convinced that most human conflicts can be solved through genuine dialogue conducted with the spirit of openness and reconciliation";

Whereas, in 1989, the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet, his advocacy for peaceful solutions to preserve Tibetans' historical and cultural heritage, and his constructive, forward-looking

proposals for resolving international conflicts, human rights issues, and global environmental problems;

Whereas Congress has consistently shown overwhelming, bipartisan, bicameral support for the Tibetan people's aspirations for internationally recognized human rights and freedoms and the protection of their distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity, including by passing the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note);

Whereas, in 2006, Congress passed the Fourteenth Dalai Lama Congressional Gold Medal Act (Public Law 109-287; 31 U.S.C. 5111), and in October 2007, President George W. Bush, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, and other Congressional leaders awarded the Dalai Lama the United States Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress, for his contributions to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and religious understanding;

Whereas Members of Congress have on multiple occasions met with the Dalai Lama during congressional delegations overseas, including a bipartisan delegation led by then-House Speaker Pelosi to meet with the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exiled community in 2008, a bipartisan delegation led by then-House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in 2017, and a bipartisan delegation from the House Democracy Partnership in 2019, to spotlight the unjust oppression against the Tibetan people;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has on multiple occasions visited the United States Capitol, including most recently in June 2016, during which he met with congressional leadership to promote respectful inter-religious harmony and protection of the Tibetan people's identity, culture, language, and environment;

Whereas the Department of State finds in its 2020 Report to Congress on Access to Tibetan Areas of the People's Republic of China (PRC), as required by the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-330), that the Chinese Government systematically impeded travel to the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and Tibetan areas outside the TAR for United States diplomats and officials, journalists, and tourists in 2019;

Whereas, in 2018, the Secretary of State convened the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, during which the Dalai Lama addressed hundreds of members of religious organizations and civil society by video;

Whereas under the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, it is the policy of the United States to support economic development, cultural preservation, health care, and education and environmental sustainability for Tibetans inside Tibet;

Whereas the human rights situation in Tibet has significantly deteriorated since the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 was signed into law;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China's repeated insistence that it must control the selection of the next leader of Tibetan Buddhism, a religion with adherents across the globe including in Mongolia, where a 2010 census reports 53 percent of individuals ages 15 and older self-identify as Buddhists, is a gross violation of international religious freedom;

Whereas the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4331, the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019, which reiterates support for the Tibetan community and the need to hold Chinese officials responsible for religious freedom abuses targeting Tibetan Buddhists;

Whereas after 35 years, the United States Consulate in Chengdu, which was responsible

for operations in and providing diplomatic reporting on developments concerning Tibetan populations in southwestern China and the Tibet Autonomous Region, closed on July 27, 2020; and

Whereas on September 12, 2020, the Dalai Lama addressed a virtual session of the Group of Seven annual meeting of Speakers and Heads of Parliament hosted by Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) affirms the cultural and religious significance of the goal of genuine autonomy for the people of Tibet and the deep bond between the American and Tibetan people;

(2) supports the efforts of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan leadership to achieve genuine autonomy for Tibetans through negotiations without preconditions with the People's Republic of China;

(3) supports the 14th Dalai Lama's commitment to global peace, nonviolence, human rights, and environmental protection and sustainability;

(4) urges the swift enactment of the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019 to update United States policy toward Tibet, particularly on issues related to the succession or reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, water security and environmental concerns in the Tibetan plateau, and support for the Tibetan community, language, culture, and religion;

(5) stresses the urgency of addressing the ongoing climate crisis, including in the Tibetan Plateau, and working toward environmental and economic justice and equality;

(6) encourages United States diplomats and other officials, journalists, and other citizens to seek access to Tibetan areas and demand that China provide access and treatment reciprocal to access and treatment the United States provides to Chinese diplomats and other officials, scholars, and others in the United States;

(7) calls on the Secretary of State to mitigate any potential impact the closure of the United States Consulate in Chengdu may have on the Department of State's ability to provide timely reporting on and support for Tibetan communities, such as by allocating additional resources to other United States missions in China to improve coverage; and

(8) determines that it would be beneficial to continue years of bipartisan and bicameral engagement with the leaders of the Tibetan people, including between Members of Congress and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 697.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has consistently demonstrated bipartisan and bicameral support for the Tibetan community, and I hope it does so again by supporting Mr. YOH's, the gentleman from Florida, legislation.

The Chinese Government has repeatedly insisted that it must control the selection of the next leader of Tibetan Buddhism—a flagrant violation of international religious freedom.

We are seeing additional signs of Beijing's efforts to exert more control, as it has already done in Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang. Radio Free Asia's Tibetan Service has reported that the rail line being constructed to connect Chengdu to Nyingtri in the Tibetan Autonomous Region will tighten Beijing's grip on Tibet.

In addition, the State Department has found that the Chinese Government has systematically impeded travel to the Tibetan Autonomous Region and Tibetan areas for U.S. diplomats and officials, journalists, and tourists.

After the Trump administration closed the Chinese Consulate in Houston, the Chinese Government retaliated by demanding the closure of the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu. This consulate, among other things, was responsible for providing reports on developments concerning Tibet, and its closure risks further undermining our ability to understand developments in the region.

H. Res. 697 affirms and supports Dalai Lama's teachings and commitment to global peace, nonviolence, human rights, and environmental protection. It also encourages further implementation of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018. Finally, it calls on the Secretary of State to mitigate impacts of the closure of the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this measure, I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 697, recognizing the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the vital work the Dalai Lama has done to promote peace around the world.

Over 60 years ago, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was forced into exile by the Chinese Communist Party's full-scale military takeover of Tibet. To this very day, the CCP uses propaganda, violence, and oppression to assert totalitarian control over Tibet and the Tibetan people. The CCP sees Tibet's cultural and religious heritage as a threat to its control. Just as they have done with Islam and Christianity, the CCP is trying to stamp out Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetans' way of life—even though Tibet is guaranteed autonomy under China's constitution.

Despite these challenges, the Dalai Lama has stood as a leader in the promotion of human rights and religious harmony and the preservation of Tibetan culture and religion. The Dalai Lama's contribution to peace and nonviolence has been revered by the international community, and for decades the U.S. Congress has remained committed to strengthening the relationship between the U.S. and the Tibetan people.

I would like to thank His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama for his dedication to the Tibetan people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 697 is a strong measure that encourages the continuation of close engagement between the United States and Tibet. I therefore urge Members to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my friend, the gentleman from Florida, in support of this important resolution.

We know as a fact, confirmed by Reuters, the New York Post, and many other news outlets, that the Chinese Communist Party has recently forced 500,000 Tibetans into labor camps—500,000.

Through these camps the CCP wishes to sinicize the Tibetan people and destroy their religious and cultural heritage and national identity.

If you asked the General Secretary Xi Jinping why his country continues to undermine the national identity of the Tibetan people, he would tell you that his party's initiative is simply part of a poverty alleviation program wherein the CCP hopes to move surplus rural labor to other parts of the country. It is absurd, and it is outrageous. The fact that a foreign leader could believe that this kind of public policy is morally acceptable is beyond me, and it is beyond the civilized world. We have heard similar explanations before.

We know what these so-called poverty alleviation programs are really about: Xi Jinping desperately wants to crush the spirits of those who are living under his dictatorial regime. He wants to indoctrinate people in those camps and ruthlessly marginalize their identities.

Mr. Speaker, you don't need camps for people who are seeking to do better in their life; you just give them the opportunity, and they will do it. They don't need to go to camp to do that.

He will fail in his effort. Make no mistake about it. He will fail spectacularly in his effort to quash the hopes of millions of Tibetans who dare to dream and fight for a free nation. One of the reasons he will fail is because the United States is with the people of Tibet.

Our Tibetan friends have long since recognized the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet, and today I am proud to join them.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 697 is a strong measure that encourages the continuation of close engagement between the United States and Tibet.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, since 1959, the U.S. Congress, on a bicameral, bipartisan basis, has remained committed to strength-

ening the friendship between the U.S. and the Tibetan people.

There are over 31,000 individuals of Tibetan descent living in North America, and our people share similar values of freedom and understanding.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has dedicated himself to three principles: the promotion of human values, the promotion of religious harmony, and the preservation of Tibetan culture and religion.

I would like to thank the Dalai Lama for his vital contributions to the Tibetan people and the world.

As Mr. PERRY said, the Communist Party knows they cannot survive with free thought, and that is what religion does for people around the world. They put a deity or a higher power above them, whereas, in China, the highest power that can be achieved is the Communist Party, and therefore it will not survive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 697, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution affirming the significance of the advocacy for genuine autonomy for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING AMERICA FROM EPIDEMICS ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6334) to authorize United States participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6334

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing America From Epidemics Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Due to increasing population and population density, human mobility, and ecological change, emerging infectious diseases pose a real and growing threat to global health security.

(2) While vaccines can be the most effective tools to protect against infectious disease, the absence of vaccines for a new or

emerging infectious disease with epidemic potential is a major health security threat globally, posing catastrophic potential human and economic costs.

(3) The 1918 influenza pandemic infected 500,000,000 people, or about one-third of the world's population at the time, and killed 50,000,000 people—more than died in the First World War.

(4) The economic cost of an outbreak can be devastating. The estimated global cost today, should an outbreak of the scale of the 1918 influenza pandemic strike, is 5 percent of global gross domestic product.

(5) Even regional outbreaks can have enormous human costs and substantially disrupt the global economy and cripple regional economies. The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa killed more than 11,000 and cost \$2,800,000,000 in losses in the affected countries alone.

(6) The ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak reflects the pressing need for quick and effective vaccine and countermeasure development.

(7) While the need for vaccines to address emerging epidemic threats is acute, markets to drive the necessary development of vaccines to address them—a complex and expensive undertaking—are very often critically absent. Also absent are mechanisms to ensure access to those vaccines by those who need them when they need them.

(8) To address this global vulnerability and the deficit of political commitment, institutional capacity, and funding, in 2017, several countries and private partners launched the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). CEPI's mission is to stimulate, finance, and coordinate development of vaccines for high-priority, epidemic-potential threats in cases where traditional markets do not exist or cannot create sufficient demand.

(9) Through funding of partnerships, CEPI seeks to bring priority vaccine candidates through the end of phase II clinical trials, as well as support vaccine platforms that can be rapidly deployed against emerging pathogens.

(10) CEPI has funded multiple partners to develop vaccine candidates against the novel coronavirus, responding to this urgent, global requirement.

(11) Support for and participation in CEPI is an important part of the United States own health security and biodefense and is in the national interest, complementing the work of many Federal agencies and providing significant value through global partnership and burden-sharing.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States is hereby authorized to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

(b) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to designate an employee to serve on the Investors Council of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations as a representative of the United States.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) The United States planned contributions to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the mechanisms for United States participation in such Coalition.

(2) The manner and extent to which the United States shall participate in the governance of the Coalition.

(3) How participation in the Coalition supports relevant United States Government strategies and programs in health security and biodefense, to include—

(A) the Global Health Security Strategy required by section 7058(c)(3) of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141);

(B) the applicable revision of the National Biodefense Strategy required by section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104); and

(C) any other relevant decision-making process for policy, planning, and spending in global health security, biodefense, or vaccine and medical countermeasures research and development.

(d) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under chapters 1 and 10 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) are authorized to be made available for United States contributions to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 6334.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a time of crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has devastated our Nation: over 200,000 Americans have died, our economy is in shambles, our lives have been turned upside down.

The virus continues to spread and worsen. Part of this is because there had not been the steps taken that we know are needed to protect the American people and address this virus head-on.

There is a clear road map ahead on how to beat this. We need to establish a robust contact tracing and testing system and flatten the curve by increasing mask wearing and social distancing, all while we develop a safe and effective vaccine.

We have heard some good news over the past few days about some safe and effective vaccines. Over the past weeks we have seen this encouraging news, and two, in particular, are showing real promise. To further develop, produce and distribute vaccines, we need to work with our partners around the

world and harness the resources of the government's multilateral organizations, public health experts, and the private sector.

We are not satisfied—I am not satisfied—with what has been done so far. I am glad that we are going back to the World Health Organization and will reboot our coordination with countries around the world. We cannot go this alone. This is a worldwide pandemic, and we need to work with all the other countries to defeat it head-on.

This bill puts us on the right track to do just that. Mr. BERA's Securing America from Epidemics Act would allow the United States to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a public-private partnership to speed up vaccine development for infectious diseases like COVID-19 and Ebola.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good measure that would put our country in a stronger position to respond to the coronavirus and future pandemics. I am proud to support it and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Securing America from Epidemics Act.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman Dr. BERA, for introducing this bill—and I co-introduced it—for his work to address this important issue.

COVID-19 has shown that pandemics know no borders and that the United States must be prepared to respond to disease outbreaks around the world. This bill authorizes the United States to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, an alliance of countries and private partners that are financing and coordinating the development of new vaccines for infectious diseases. These are the emerging diseases that they are studying so that we are prepared for them.

□ 1245

In addition to COVID-19, CEPI has developed a list of priority diseases with epidemic potential, including viruses that cause Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, MERS. By leveraging contributions from member states with expertise and funding by private partners, CEPI seeks to develop vaccines before the disease outbreak occurs.

CEPI estimates that COVID-19 could cost the global economy \$4.1 trillion, or close to 5 percent of global GDP.

Of course, the impact of viruses like COVID-19 is not just measured in the disruption of economic stability in nations around the world, but also, unfortunately, in the lives lost.

Developing vaccines and treatments for emerging infectious diseases is not just an issue of individual health but of national security. Our committee has worked together on many pieces of legislation in response to COVID-19. The

SAFE Act is another example of this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues who believe we must do all we can to prevent another pandemic like COVID-19 from emerging in the future to support this legislation, as it is a critical component to that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), author of this important bill, the chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his leadership and support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan measure, H.R. 6334, the Securing America From Epidemics, or SAFE Act. This legislation, which I introduced alongside my friend, Congressman TED YOHO, would authorize U.S. participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, or CEPI.

CEPI was created in the aftermath of the 2015 West Africa Ebola epidemic. Its founders understood that due to factors like climate change, overcrowding, malnutrition, and the proximity of people living next to animals, the world would see deadly epidemics more and more frequently. The most effective countermeasures to these epidemics are vaccines.

CEPI sought to fund vaccines for several pathogens like MERS that could potentially explode into pandemics. And it sought to help develop universal vaccine platform technologies that could be adapted to quickly address emerging outbreaks. The individuals in CEPI could not have predicted the current COVID-19 pandemic, but they knew it was just a matter of time until we would see something like this.

Since the start of the pandemic, CEPI has devoted major funding to nine vaccine candidates to defeat COVID-19. In January of this year, CEPI was one of the first investors in Moderna, providing catalytic funding to spur additional research and development. That early funding has paid off. It looks like Moderna's Phase 3 trials have been successful.

CEPI's early investment in Moderna is a reminder of the critical role CEPI plays and will continue to play: investing in smaller companies to boost their capacity, so that larger players and actors can help scale and bring those vaccines to market. This is what happened with Moderna and may happen with other vaccine candidates.

USAID recently announced the collaboration with CEPI, funding \$20 million over 5 years to combat noncoronavirus priority diseases, like Lassa fever and Ebola, but we need to do more. By authorizing U.S. participation in CEPI, this bill will enable the United States to firmly claim a seat at CEPI's table, shape its priorities and governance, and allow Congress to provide contributions to the organization.

U.S. participation in CEPI was one of the recommendations of the final report issued nearly a year ago at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Commission on Strengthening America's Health Security. It was prescient in its recommendations, and I am proud to have served as a commissioner. We knew then that the next epidemic or pandemic was around the corner. It is here with us now, but it will not be the last one.

We need to be a full and active participant in CEPI's work. By working through organizations like CEPI to develop new vaccine technologies, we will ensure the world is far more ready for the next pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. YOHO and all the cosponsors of this important legislation, as well as the work that the Committee on Foreign Affairs staff, like Katy Crosby, and my own staff, like Ryan Uyehara, did to bring this legislation to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure and call on the Senate to pass it as well.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I once again thank Representative BERA for his work on this important legislation. The U.S. international community and the private sector must continue to work together to develop the tools we need in response to emerging infectious diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank Mr. BERA for his leadership and hard work on this legislation that everyone should support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6334, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAFFIRMING VITAL ROLE OF UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 349) reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 349

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas for more than the past 70 years, the partnership between the United States and Japan has played a vital role in ensuring peace, stability, and economic development in Asia and beyond;

Whereas the United States and Japan are deeply committed to the common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and free market economies;

Whereas the current United States-Japan alliance, forged over six decades ago with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, is the cornerstone for stability and prosperity of Japan and for the Indo-Pacific region, and plays a key role in global peace and stability;

Whereas the United States and Japan are indispensable partners in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, improving global health, countering human trafficking and promoting human rights, assisting the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide, and contributing to global economic development;

Whereas the United States and Japan have worked closely during the COVID-19 pandemic to safely repatriate our respective citizens home and to strengthen our collaboration on global health research and development through partnerships such as the United States-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program;

Whereas the United States and Japan are partnering to promote infrastructure investments around the Indo-Pacific that ensure openness, transparency, economic efficiency, and debt sustainability, including through the United States-Japan Mekong Power partnership and the United States-Japan Strategic Energy Partnership;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and Australia announced in November 2019 the establishment of a Blue Dot Network that will promote transparent and quality infrastructure projects that align with the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment;

Whereas the alliance is a testament to the ability of great nations to overcome the past and jointly work to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas approximately 54,000 United States troops are stationed in Japan and the Japanese Government makes substantial financial commitments to the maintenance of United States forces in Japan under the Special Measures Agreement and other contributions that directly support operational readiness of United States forces in Japan;

Whereas the current United States-Japan Special Measures Agreement is set to expire in March 2021, and the two countries launched working-level negotiations on a new cost-sharing agreement in October 2020;

Whereas, in October 2020, the United States, Australia, India, and Japan continued their ongoing cooperation through the quad framework and discussed collective efforts to collaborate on COVID-19 pandemic response, maritime security, cybersecurity, quality infrastructure, counterterrorism, and other areas;

Whereas our two countries, coming from different cultural backgrounds, have created an active and dynamic relationship beneficial to both peoples; and

Whereas cultural and people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan are long-standing and deep, as exemplified by the gift of the beautiful cherry trees that dot our nation's capital from the People of Japan to the People of the United States in 1912, signifying the affection and respect between the two nations: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace,

stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(2) supports the conclusion of an equitable, new United States-Japan Special Measures Agreement that is negotiated based on our shared national interests, prior to the expiration of the current agreement;

(3) supports cooperation between the United States, Japan, and other like-minded partners to promote high-quality infrastructure, energy, and development projects that are open, transparent, and sustainable;

(4) underscores the importance of the close people-to-people and cultural ties between our two nations;

(5) calls for the continued robust cooperation between the United States and Japan in the global fight against COVID-19, and supports the Japanese Government's commitment to hosting the Olympic Games in 2021;

(6) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and Japan;

(7) reaffirms the vital role of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue as a platform to facilitate further collaboration between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan on matters related to protecting freedom of navigation and promoting democratic values in the Indo-Pacific; and

(8) calls for the continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in addressing global challenges that threaten the security of people everywhere in the "Reiwa" era of Japan, which the Japanese Government translates as "beautiful harmony".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 349, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CASTRO for authorizing this measure reaffirming our partnership with Japan, a longstanding U.S. ally and an indispensable partner for advancing peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia and beyond.

The United States and Japan share a commitment to upholding human rights, the rule of law, and democratic values and freedoms. In challenging times like these, it is all the more important that we work with like-minded friends to defend and promote our shared interests.

One of those shared priorities is strengthening our alliances. This is more important than ever as China's behavior becomes increasingly aggressive and Kim Jong-un in North Korea remains unchecked in his challenge to regional security and stability.

H. Res. 349 expresses the bipartisan support in Congress for an equitable agreement with Japan regarding Host Nation Support for our troops before

the current one expires. This is a critical way to shore up a key ally's defenses and protect U.S. national interests.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution reaffirming our commitment to the United States' partnership with Japan, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 349, a resolution to reaffirm the vital role of the U.S.-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

For over six decades, the U.S.-Japan alliance has served as a cornerstone for security in the Indo-Pacific region and will continue to be fundamental to the protection of our shared interests.

Our two democratic nations maintain close cooperation on a multitude of issues, including nonproliferation, global health, and maritime security. In recent years, our alliance has stood as a crucial check to China's increasing regional aggression and North Korea's continued nuclear ambitions.

As the security environment in the Indo-Pacific continues to become more complex, our alliance will prove to be more significant than ever. This resolution reaffirms the importance of this longstanding strategic relationship in the face of the new threats and challenges that impact both U.S. and Japan.

Mr. Speaker, as we face what some would consider the greatest threat in our generation, the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP, the United States must reaffirm support for our alliance with like-minded nations like Japan. It is only through mutual cooperation that we can continue to protect democratic values and freedoms around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as certain actors continue their aggressive behavior and destabilize the Indo-Pacific region, it is critical that we continue to strengthen our allies and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 349, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING IMPORTANCE OF UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF KOREAN AMERICANS

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 809) expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 809

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a comprehensive alliance partnership, founded in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea work closely together to promote international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea goes as far back as Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas, on August 15, 1948, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, established on April 11, 1919, was dissolved and transitioned to the First Republic of Korea, the first independent government;

Whereas regional peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific promotes shared United States-Republic of Korea interests of prosperity and economic well-being;

Whereas United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula since the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 UST 2368) was signed at Washington on October 1, 1953;

Whereas, on May 7, 2013, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance Between the Republic of Korea and the United States;

Whereas 63 years ago the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the United States and the Republic of Korea, with Protocol (8 UST 2217) was signed at Seoul on November 28, 1956;

Whereas the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States, our shared national security interests, the 9,000 South Korean civilians working to support the joint mission of United States Forces Korea and the 28,500 United States military service members currently stationed in South Korea, are best served by the conclusion of mutually agreeable, multi-year Special Measures Agreements;

Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea is deep and mutually beneficial to both countries;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is the United States sixth-largest trading partner;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is one of the fastest growing sources of foreign direct investment in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the second largest source of foreign direct investment in the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, on January 13, 1903, 102 pioneer Korean immigrants arrived in the United States, initiating the first chapter of Korean immigration to America;

Whereas the over 2,000,000 Korean Americans living in the United States contribute to the diversity and prosperity of our Nation, participate in all facets of American life, and have made significant contributions to the economic vitality of the United States;

Whereas members of the Korean American community serve with distinction in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Korean Americans continue to build and strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea; and

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (Public Law 115-409), signed into law on December 31, 2018, states that the United States Government—

(1) is committed to the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea and all related and subsequent bilateral security agreements and arrangements concluded on or before the date of the enactment of that Act;

(2) recognizes the vital role of the alliance between the United States and South Korea in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the vital role the alliance of the United States and the Republic of Korea plays in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea, including through the conclusion of mutually agreeable multi-year Special Measures Agreements; and

(3) reaffirms the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea is central to advancing United States interests, engagement, and influence in the region, based on shared commitments to democracy, free-market economics, human rights, and the rule of law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 809.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this good measure from Mr. SUOZZI expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the immense contributions of Korean Americans to the United States.

The Republic of Korea is a linchpin of United States foreign policy in Northeast Asia. Our alliance, built upon our shared interests and commitment to human rights, good governance, and

other democratic values, has been crucial for promoting international peace and security, prosperity, rule of law, and freedom in the region and beyond.

Here at home, we owe much of our success to the contributions of the millions of Koreans and Korean Americans living in the United States. Diversity has always been a source of America's strength, and the Korean-American community is an excellent example of that.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this important resolution. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 809, expressing the importance of the alliance between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

South Korea continues to be one of our most important strategic and economic partners in the Indo-Pacific region. While our alliance focuses heavily on our shared concern of a nuclearized North Korea, our two nations also cooperate in areas such as democracy, global health, and counterterrorism.

Together, we have made it a priority to support and uphold rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region and protect the democratic values and freedoms that both of our people hold so dearly. As bad actors in the region continue their aggressive campaign against democracy and stability, it is critical that we reiterate the importance of our relationship with nations like South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from my home State of New York (Mr. SUOZZI), the author of this important resolution.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Chairman ENGEL.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 809, which, as the chairman mentioned, I authored. This resolution expresses the importance of our country's alliance with the Republic of Korea.

Affirmation of this alliance during this time of transition to a new administration and a new Congress is being closely watched throughout the Indo-Pacific region, and it is encouraging to note that support for this resolution is bipartisan and was passed unanimously by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A little over 100 years ago, the Republic of Korea declared itself sovereign and formed a provisional government. Today, it is one of the most vibrant, prosperous, and free societies in the world.

□ 1300

The United States and South Korea have a special diplomatic, economic, and security relationship, strengthened

by shared strategic interests and a commitment cemented by democratic values.

Our alliance is central to advancing democracy, free markets, human rights, the rule of law, peace and security, and crushing COVID-19, not only in the Indo-Pacific region, but throughout the world.

But this alliance is not limited to international cooperation. Korean Americans contribute so much to the fabric of our American communities, including the communities in my district in New York. Nearly 2 million Korean Americans live across our country, and I know from my personal experience that Korean Americans enrich all aspects of our society.

I am proud to lead this resolution through the House of Representatives today and call on my colleagues to continue to strengthen diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the U.S. and our vital ally, South Korea.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for decades, our alliance with the Republic of Korea has served as a testament to the power of freedom and democracy. Our relationship is built upon strong ties and shared values, and more than 1.7 million Korean Americans call the United States home.

I look forward to many more years of close cooperation between our two nations as our alliance evolves and strengthens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank Mr. SUOZZI for authoring this measure. I know he has had a deep interest in this for many, many years. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 809, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUTBREAK OF KOREAN WAR

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1012) recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial, global partnership, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1012

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 83 on June 27,

1950, recommending "Members of the United Nations furnish assistance to the Republic of Korea" and Resolution 84 on July 7, 1950, recommending members make military forces and other assistance available "to a unified command under the United States of America";

Whereas, on July 27, 1953, an Armistice Agreement was signed by United States Army Lieutenant General William Harrison, Jr., representing the United Nations Command with the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army to "ensure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved";

Whereas the Armistice Agreement remains in force today and that by its terms has neither formally ended the Korean war nor constituted a permanent settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas, on October 1, 1953, the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 UST 2368) was signed in Washington with ratification advised by the Senate on January 26, 1954, and the shared commitment to recognize an armed attack on either of the Parties as dangerous to each's own peace and security and to "act to meet the common danger in accordance with [each's] constitutional processes" and remains in force today;

Whereas during the Korean war, 1,789,000 United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines served in theater, 36,574 paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives in defense of freedom in the Republic of Korea, and over 7,500 United States servicemembers remain classified by the Department of Defense as missing in action;

Whereas, on October 7, 2016, H.R. 1475, entitled the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act", was introduced in Congress by Representative Sam Johnson of Texas and became Public Law 114-230;

Whereas according to House Report 114-433 to accompany H.R. 1475, H.R. 1475 authorizes a Wall of Remembrance to be added to the Korean War Veterans Memorial with the names of those that died in theater, are listed as missing, or prisoners of war, and would also list the number of members of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) who were killed in action, wounded in action, prisoners of war, or are listed as missing in action;

Whereas the ongoing conflict separated countless Korean families from one another, and an estimated 3,000 elderly South Koreans die every year without reuniting with their loved ones;

Whereas in the 70 years since the outbreak of the Korean conflict, the United States-Republic of Korea alliance has transformed itself from a security relationship into a comprehensive global partnership;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is considered one of the greatest success stories in the post-World War II era and constitutes a lynchpin of United States foreign policy in Northeast Asia;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have stood shoulder to shoulder in all major military conflicts the United States has faced since the Korean war while maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas this partnership has contributed to regional and global prosperity through the shared values of democracy, free market economy, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to maintain its forward deployed presence in the Republic of Korea through United States Forces Korea (USFK), a premier Joint Force that is "well led, disciplined, trained and ready to Fight Tonight and win";

Whereas the 70-year transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial partnership has recently led to important coordination and cooperation in confronting global pandemics including H1N1 in 2009, and COVID-19 in 2020;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has made significant contributions to the global community in combating and containing COVID-19, including the manufacture and export of Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test kits to the United States Government and various States;

Whereas, on May 8, 2020, the Republic of Korea donated 500,000 masks to be distributed to Korean war veterans throughout the United States, including the Navajo Nation, in a gesture of gratitude and in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war; and

Whereas, on May 10, 2020, the Republic of Korea donated 2,000,000 masks to the United States to help fill shortages in hospitals most impacted by COVID-19: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) underscores the continuing and crucial role of the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea in ensuring peace and stability in Asia and the world, including by providing security from the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its repeated provocations;

(2) reaffirms the importance of close cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Korea in the Indo-Pacific, including on issues ranging from infrastructure and development financing to promoting good governance;

(3) encourages the continued close and continuing ties between the people and governments of the two nations, as well as the contributions the near two million Korean-Americans have made to both societies;

(4) commits to continuing and expanding United States-Republic of Korea medical and scientific and research collaboration, particularly since cooperation between the two countries has saved countless lives during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(5) urges both countries to prioritize ongoing Special Measures Agreement negotiations and to reach mutually agreeable terms; and

(6) recommitments the United States to ensuring the relationship between the United States and Republic of Korea continues to grow and thrive into the foreseeable future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 1012, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. BERA for authoring this resolution recognizing the historic alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

In the 70 years since the outbreak of the Korean War, the U.S.-Korea alliance has grown to become an indispensable partnership for defending and promoting peace, prosperity, and stability in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

With a shared commitment to human rights and democratic values, our two countries have worked hand in hand as partners on so much of the challenges facing us today: Security, trade, global health, and more.

When the United States faced crippling shortages in essential protective gear during this pandemic, South Korea stepped up to help us in our time of need.

In times of crisis, it is all the more important that we work closely with our allies and friends. Our security posture in the Korean Peninsula isn't just beneficial to the Republic of Korea, it is a benefit for American security as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this good measure recognizing our alliance with the Republic of Korea, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1012, recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the transformation of the U.S.-Korea alliance into a mutual beneficial, global partnership.

Since that momentous day, our two nations have worked together to promote and protect democracy and freedom in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world.

American and South Koreans alike understand the importance of defending democracy against malign actors who seek to undermine it at every turn.

I would like to thank the 5.8 million U.S. servicemembers who served during the Korean War, including 36,574 who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of the Republic of Korea.

The fight to protect freedom and democracy will continue for years to come, but we are fortunate to have partners like the Republic of Korea by our side.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), the author of this important resolution, the chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of my resolution, H. Res. 1012, which recognizes the transformation of the U.S.-South Korea relationship into a strong and enduring partnership that benefits the entire world.

As the proud co-chair of the Korea Caucus and the co-chair of the Congressional Study Group on Korea, I know how important this relationship is to our two countries.

This spring, I introduced this resolution because I wanted to acknowledge and highlight the shared history and ties between our nations.

It was over 70 years ago that the United States rushed to the aid of the Republic of Korea after they were attacked by its neighbor to the north.

The United States, leading the multinational coalition of the United Nations Command, successfully defended the Republic of Korea.

But the war devastated South Korea. Forty years ago, South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world. Today, they are one of the most advanced. It is a miracle, and it is hard work.

The Republic of Korea became a democracy in the late 1980s. Today, it is one of the most widely respected countries in Asia and the world. It has been incredibly successful against the COVID-19 pandemic and has helped the United States in our own battle against it.

President-elect Biden has recognized the value of our relationship with Korea, and his call to President Moon Jae-in was one of the first calls to a foreign leader.

Our ties with the Republic of Korea are enduring. They are based on our shared people-to-people values, our vibrant Korean-American community, American expatriates in South Korea, and our economic ties.

We have shared values and respect for democracy and human rights. We will work together to confront the challenges of this pandemic, as well as other challenges, like climate change.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who support and sustain this alliance, as well as Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL and their staff, like Theresa Lou, who helped bring this resolution to the floor.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for those who fought to defend freedom during the Korean War. Because of their sacrifice, South Koreans can live freely and without fear of oppression.

Through new and unforeseen challenges, the U.S.-ROK alliance continues to strengthen and evolve, and we look forward to close cooperation and friendship in years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that, as one of the few Members of Congress who has been to North Korea twice, I think that when you do that, you see the profound difference between North Korea and South Korea. That is why it is so important that the United States continue strongly its alliance with the Republic of Korea, a vital partnership that has grown stronger and stronger

over the past 70 years, and I am sure will continue for many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1012, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Resolution Recognizing the historic transformation of the United States-Republic of Korea alliance since the Korean War into a mutually beneficial, global partnership."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIBYA STABILIZATION ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4644) to clarify United States policy toward Libya, advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya, and support the people of Libya, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4644

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Libya Stabilization Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; statement of policy.

TITLE I—IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES TO STABILITY IN LIBYA

- Sec. 101. Report on activities of certain foreign governments and actors in Libya.
- Sec. 102. Report of Russian activities and objectives in Libya.
- Sec. 103. Determination of sanctionable activities of the Libyan National Army with respect to Syria.

TITLE II—ACTIONS TO ADDRESS FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LIBYA

- Sec. 201. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons leading, directing, or supporting certain foreign government involvement in Libya.
- Sec. 202. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons threatening the peace or stability of Libya.
- Sec. 203. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons who are responsible for or complicit in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed in Libya.
- Sec. 204. Sanctions described.
- Sec. 205. Waiver.
- Sec. 206. Implementation and regulatory authority.
- Sec. 207. Exception relating to importation of goods.
- Sec. 208. Definitions.
- Sec. 209. Suspension of sanctions.
- Sec. 210. Sunset.

TITLE III—ASSISTANCE FOR LIBYA

- Sec. 301. Humanitarian relief for the people of Libya and international refugees and migrants in Libya.
- Sec. 302. Support for democratic governance, elections, and civil society.
- Sec. 303. Engaging international financial institutions to advance Libyan economic recovery and improve public sector financial management.
- Sec. 304. Recovering assets stolen from the Libyan people.

TITLE IV—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

- Sec. 401. Determination of budgetary effects.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The stability and territorial unity of Libya is critical to the security of the United States, Europe, North Africa, and the Sahel, as well as maritime routes in the southern Mediterranean Sea.

(2) United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) identifies containing instability in Libya as one of its six main lines of effort in Africa and works to support diplomatic efforts to reconstitute the Libyan State and to disrupt terrorist organizations that impede that process or threaten United States interests.

(3) According to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Islamic State in Libya (ISIS-Libya) is "degraded". However, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said in November 2019 that there is a continued need for lethal operations to keep ISIS-Libya in a degraded state.

(4) On April 4, 2019, Khalifa Haftar, the commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) ordered forces loyal to him to begin a unilateral military operation to take control of Tripoli, the capital of Libya and seat of the Government of National Accord (GNA), an interim body that emerged from previous United Nations-backed negotiations which the United States Government and the United Nations Security Council have recognized since 2015.

(5) Both the LNA, the GNA, and their associated forces have failed to observe their obligations under international humanitarian law, increased the geographic scope of the conflict, ignored calls for de-escalation and a ceasefire, recruited foreign mercenaries, and intensified ground and air campaigns using heavy weapons, aircraft, and reportedly using armed drones provided by foreign powers.

(6) According to then-United Nations Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ghassan Salamé, weapons provided by foreign powers to the warring parties in violation of the United Nations arms embargo are being sold to or captured by terrorist groups active in Libya.

(7) According to the United Nations, since the LNA offensive began in April 2019, the conflict in Libya has led to the deaths of more than 2,200 people and the displacement of more than 150,000 people.

(8) All sides of the conflict have requisitioned the houses of civilians, targeted medical facilities, and inhibited humanitarian access to food, health, and other lifesaving services, worsening humanitarian conditions.

(9) More than 2,200 refugees and migrants are detained in detention facilities in Libya with serious risks of torture, starvation, sexual abuse, and death. On July 2, 2019, an airstrike against the Tajura Detention Center killed 53 and wounded 130 people trapped in

the center. The United Nations has called for the immediate release, evacuation, and protection of refugees and migrants detained in conflict zones.

(10) The Department of State's 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report states with regard to Libya, "Trafficking victims—including men, women, and children—are highly vulnerable to extreme violence and other human rights violations in Libya by governmental and non-state armed groups, including: physical, sexual, and verbal assault; abduction for ransom; extortion; arbitrary killings; inhumane detention; and child soldiering. . . Migrants in Libya are extremely vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking [and . . .] are vulnerable to exploitation by state and non-state actors, including employers who refuse to pay laborers' wages."

(11) In November 2019, the GNA and the Government of Turkey signed a Memorandum of Understanding on maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea.

(12) According to a July 2020 Department of Defense Inspector General report, the Wagner Group, a Russian private military company, has deployed as many as 2,500 mercenary forces, including some Syrian fighters, advanced equipment, and advanced capabilities to support the LNA and Russian objectives in North Africa.

(13) According to a July 2020 Department of Defense Inspector General report, "Turkey's president acknowledged that his country sent many Syrian militants to Libya to support the Government of National Accord (GNA). . . USAFRICOM estimated that 3,500 Syrian mercenaries were in Libya supporting the GNA as of the end of March. Citing press reports, USAFRICOM stated that an additional 300 Turkish-supported 'Syrian opposition' fighters arrived in Libya in early April."

(14) In January 2020, LNA-aligned forces shut down oil production in eastern Libya, which according to the United Nations threatens devastating consequences for the Libyan people and for the country's economic and financial situation.

(15) On January 19, 2020, at a peace conference in Berlin, representatives of the Governments of Algeria, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Turkey, the Republic of Congo, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as regional and multilateral organizations, agreed to refrain from interference in Libya's internal affairs, abide by the United Nations arms embargo, and advance a 55-point communique to resolve the conflict in Libya.

(16) On January 30, 2020, then-United Nations Special Representative Salamé asserted, "the warring parties have continued to receive advanced equipment, fighters, and advisors from foreign states, in violation of the UN arms embargo and pledges made by representatives of these countries in Berlin".

(17) On February 12, 2020, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "The task of bringing the Libyans back to the negotiating table has been complicated by the involvement of external actors. Libya is not the place for Russian mercenaries, or fighters from Syria, Chad, and Sudan. It is not the place for the Emiratis, Russians, or Turks to be fighting battles on the ground through intermediaries they sponsor or support with sophisticated and deadly equipment in pursuit of their own agendas."

(18) On February 13, 2020, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2510, which endorses the Conclusions of the International Conference on Libya held in Berlin, affirms the need for a lasting ceasefire, demands full compliance by all

member states with the United Nations arms embargo, and expresses unequivocal support for the United Nations Special Representative and the ongoing UNSMIL-facilitated intra-Libyan dialogue.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to advance a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Libya through a political process as the best way to secure United States interests, ensure a stable and unified Libya, reduce the threat of terrorism, and provide peace and opportunity to the Libyan people;

(2) to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), which established an arms embargo on Libya, and subsequent resolutions modifying and extending the embargo;

(3) to enforce Executive Order 13726 (81 Fed. Reg. 23559; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of persons contributing to the situation in Libya (April 19, 2016)), designed to target individuals or entities who “threaten the peace, security, and stability of Libya”;

(4) to oppose attacks on civilians, medical workers, and critical infrastructure, including water supplies, in Libya, and to support accountability for those engaged in such heinous actions;

(5) to support Libya’s sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2510 (2020) and all predecessor resolutions with respect to Libya, including by—

(A) taking action to end the violence and flow of arms;

(B) rejecting attempts by any party to illicitly export Libya’s oil; and

(C) urging Libyan parties to eject foreign military and mercenary forces;

(6) to leverage diplomatic relations to convince the parties to the conflict in Libya to immediately de-escalate and halt their current fighting and persuade foreign powers to stop providing personnel, including mercenaries, weapons, and financing that exacerbate the conflict;

(7) to support building on the Libyan Political Agreement as a viable framework for the political solution in Libya and to urge all Libyan parties to resume the inclusive Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process under the auspices of UNSMIL;

(8) to support a negotiated and peaceful political solution that includes a single, unified, inclusive, and effective Libyan Government approved by the Libyan House of Representatives, the end of a transitional period achieved through free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections, a fair and transparent allocation of resources, interim security arrangements, and a process for the reunification of Libyan government ministries and Libyan sovereign institutions, including the Central Bank of Libya, the National Oil Corporation, and the Libyan Investment Authority;

(9) to support constant, unimpeded, and reliable humanitarian access to those in need and to hold accountable those who impede or threaten the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(10) to seek to bring an end to trafficking in persons such as slavery, forced labor, and sexual exploitation, including with respect to migrants;

(11) to advocate for the immediate release and safe evacuations of detained refugees and migrants trapped by the fighting in Libya;

(12) to encourage implementation of UNSMIL’s plan for the organized and gradual closure of migrant detention centers in Libya;

(13) to support current and future democratic and economic development; and

(14) to discourage all parties from heightening tensions in the region, through unhelpful and provocative actions.

TITLE I—IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES TO STABILITY IN LIBYA

SEC. 101. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND ACTORS IN LIBYA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a description of the full extent of involvement in Libya by foreign governments, including the Governments of Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, China, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, including—

(A) a description of which governments are linked to drone and aircraft strikes;

(B) a list of the types and estimated amounts of equipment transferred by each government described in this paragraph to the parties to the conflict, including foreign military contractors, mercenaries, or paramilitary forces operating in Libya; and

(C) an estimate of the financial support provided by each government described in this paragraph to the parties to the conflict, including foreign military contractors, mercenaries, or paramilitary forces operating in Libya;

(2) an analysis and determination of whether the actions by the governments described in paragraph (1) violate the arms embargo with respect to Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2473 (2019) and other relevant Security Council resolutions;

(3) a list of the specific offending materiel or financial support transfers provided by a government described in paragraph (1) that violate the arms embargo with respect to Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2473 (2019) and other relevant Security Council resolutions;

(4) a description of the activities of each foreign armed group, including the Russian Wagner Group, Turkish military contractors and mercenaries, affiliates of ISIS, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and Ansar al-Sharia, in Libya;

(5) a description of European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) efforts to enforce the United Nations arms embargo and facilitate a ceasefire;

(6) a description of any violations of the arms embargo by European Union member states; and

(7) a description of United States diplomatic engagement with the European Union and NATO regarding enforcement of the United Nations arms embargo.

(b) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 102. REPORT OF RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES IN LIBYA.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) General Stephen Townsend, Commander of United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), warned in January 2020 that in

Libya, Russia seeks to “demonstrate itself as an alternative partner to the West” and seeks to position itself alongside the southern flank of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(2) AFRICOM has also stated that the Russian military presence in Libya threatens future United States military partnerships and counterterrorism cooperation by impeding United States access to Libya.

(3) In May 2020, AFRICOM reported that the Government of Russia deployed 14 MiG-29 and Su-24 aircraft to Libya to support Russian state-sponsored private military contractors, including the Wagner Group.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains an assessment of Russian activities and objectives in Libya, including—

(A) the potential threat such activities pose to the United States, southern Europe, NATO, and partners in the Mediterranean Sea and North African region;

(B) the direct role of Russia in Libyan financial affairs, to include issuing and printing currency; and

(C) Russia’s use of mercenaries, military contractors, equipment, and paramilitary forces in Libya.

(2) **FORM.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(3) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 103. DETERMINATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES OF THE LIBYAN NATIONAL ARMY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a list of members of the Libyan National Army (LNA), and details of their activities, that the President determines are knowingly responsible for sanctionable offenses pursuant to—

(1) section 7412 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note; 133 Stat. 2292); or

(2) Executive Order 13582 (76 Fed. Reg. 52209; relating to blocking property of the Government of Syria and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to Syria (August 17, 2011)).

TITLE II—ACTIONS TO ADDRESS FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LIBYA

SEC. 201. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS LEADING, DIRECTING, OR SUPPORTING CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN LIBYA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose each of the sanctions described in section 204 with respect to each foreign person that the President determines knowingly engages in an activity described in subsection (b).

(b) **ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.**—A foreign person engages in an activity described in this subsection if the person leads, directs, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support to, or knowingly engages in a significant transaction with, a non-Libyan foreign person that is—

(1) in Libya in a military or commercial capacity as a military contractor, mercenary, or part of a paramilitary force; and

(2) engaged in significant actions that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Libya.

SEC. 202. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THREATENING THE PEACE OR STABILITY OF LIBYA.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose each of the sanctions described in section 204 with respect to each foreign person on the list required by subsection (b).

(b) LIST.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of—

(1) foreign persons, including senior government officials, militia leaders, paramilitary leaders, and other persons who provide significant support to militia or paramilitary groups in Libya, that the President determines are knowingly—

(A) engaged in significant actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Libya, including any supply of arms or related materiel in violation of a United Nations Security Council resolution with respect to Libya;

(B) engaged in significant actions or policies that obstruct, undermine, delay, or impede, or pose a significant risk of obstructing, undermining, delaying, or impeding the United Nations-mediated political process that seeks a negotiated and peaceful solution to the Libyan crisis;

(C) engaged in significant actions that may lead to or result in the misappropriation of significant state assets of Libya;

(D) involved in, or has been involved in, the significant illicit exploitation of crude oil or any other natural resources in Libya, including the significant illicit production, refining, brokering, sale, purchase, or export of Libyan oil;

(E) significantly threatening or coercing Libyan state financial institutions or the Libyan National Oil Company; or

(F) significantly responsible for actions or policies that are intended to undermine efforts to promote stabilization and economic recovery in Libya;

(2) foreign persons that the President determines are successor entities to persons referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1); and

(3) foreign persons that the President determines—

(A) own or control, or are owned or controlled by, a person referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2); and

(B) have provided, or attempted to provide, significant financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, a person referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) for purposes of engaging in any activity listed in such subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

(4) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years; or

(B) as new information becomes available.

(5) FORM.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 203. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT IN GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTED IN LIBYA.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose each of the sanctions described in section 204 with respect to each

foreign person on the list required by subsection (b).

(b) LIST OF PERSONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of foreign persons, including senior government officials, militia leaders, paramilitary leaders, and other persons who provide significant support to militia or paramilitary groups in Libya, that the President determines are knowingly responsible for or complicit in, or have directly or indirectly engaged in, gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed in Libya.

(2) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years; or

(B) as new information becomes available.

(3) FORM.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 204. SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.

(a) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be imposed with respect to a foreign person under section 201, 202, or 203 are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

(A) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person who meets any of the criteria described section 201, 202, or 203 is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A foreign person subject to section 201, 202, or 203 is subject to the following:

(i) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(b) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations promulgated under section 306(2) to carry out subsection (a)(1) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Sanctions under subsection (a)(2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement

regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States.

(d) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL SECURITY.—The following activities shall be exempt from sanctions under this section:

(1) Activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.).

(2) Any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

SEC. 205. WAIVER.

The President may waive the application of sanctions imposed on a foreign person under this title if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) not later than the date on which such waiver will take effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for such waiver.

SEC. 206. IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

The President—

(1) is authorized to exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this title; and

(2) shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 207. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions under this title shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(4) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—The term “foreign government” means any government of a country other than the United States.

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly” with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) an individual who is a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

(7) GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.—The term “gross violations of internationally recognized

human rights” has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1)).

SEC. 209. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may suspend in whole or in part the imposition of sanctions otherwise required under this title for periods not to exceed 90 days if the President determines that the parties to the conflict in Libya have agreed to and are upholding a sustainable, good-faith ceasefire in support of a lasting political solution in Libya.

(b) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President makes a determination to suspend the imposition of sanctions as described in subsection (a), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of the determination.

(c) REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions suspended under subsection (a) shall be reimposed if the President determines that the criteria described in that subsection are no longer being met.

SEC. 210. SUNSET.

The requirement to impose sanctions under this title shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2024.

TITLE III—ASSISTANCE FOR LIBYA

SEC. 301. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA AND INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN LIBYA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Government should—

(A) continue efforts to address Libya’s humanitarian crisis;

(B) leverage diplomatic relations with the warring parties to guarantee constant, reliable humanitarian access by frontline providers in Libya;

(C) leverage diplomatic relations with the warring parties, the United Nations, and the European Union to encourage the voluntary safe passage of detained vulnerable migrants and refugees from the conflict zones in Libya; and

(D) support efforts to document and publicize gross violations of internationally recognized human rights and international humanitarian law, including efforts related to trafficking in persons such as slavery, forced labor, and sexual exploitation, and hold perpetrators accountable; and

(2) humanitarian assistance to address the crisis in Libya should be targeted toward those most in need and delivered through partners that uphold internationally recognized humanitarian principles, with robust monitoring to ensure assistance is reaching intended beneficiaries.

(b) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of State, should continue to support humanitarian assistance to individuals and communities in Libya, including—

(1) health assistance, including logistical and technical assistance to hospitals, ambulances, and health clinics in affected communities, including migrant communities, and provision of basic public health commodities;

(2) services, such as medicines and medical supplies and equipment;

(3) assistance to provide—

(A) protection, food, and shelter, including to migrant communities; and

(B) water, sanitation, and hygiene (commonly referred to as “WASH”); and

(4) technical assistance to ensure health, food, and commodities are appropriately selected, procured, targeted, monitored, and distributed.

(c) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with

the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy on the following:

(1) How the United States, working with relevant foreign governments and multilateral organizations, plans to address the humanitarian situation in Libya.

(2) Diplomatic efforts by the United States to encourage strategic burden-sharing with international donors, including foreign governments and multilateral organizations on efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in Libya.

(3) How to address humanitarian access challenges and ensure protection for vulnerable refugees and migrants, including protection from trafficking in persons such as slavery, forced labor, and sexual exploitation.

(4) How the United States is mitigating risk, utilizing third party monitors, and ensuring effective delivery of assistance.

(d) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, should work with relevant foreign governments and multilateral organizations to coordinate a high-level summit with respect to Libya in order to—

(1) advance a ceasefire;

(2) facilitate a political process to achieve such a ceasefire; and

(3) coordinate donations to advance the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Libya and international migrants and refugees in Libya in order to carry out the strategy required by subsection (c).

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 302. SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, ELECTIONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate United States Government efforts to—

(1) support efforts to resolve the current civil conflict in Libya;

(2) work to help the people of Libya and a future Libyan government develop functioning, unified Libyan economic, security, and governing institutions;

(3) work to ensure free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections organized by an independent and effective High National Elections Commission in Libya, including through supporting electoral security and international election observation and by providing training and technical assistance to institutions with election-related responsibilities, as appropriate;

(4) work with the people of Libya, non-governmental organizations, and Libyan institutions to strengthen democratic governance, reinforce civilian institutions and support decentralization in order to address community grievances, promote social cohesion, mitigate drivers of violent extremism, and help communities recover from Islamic State occupation;

(5) defend against gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in Libya, including by supporting efforts to document such violations;

(6) to combat corruption and improve the transparency and accountability of Libyan government institutions; and

(7) to support the efforts of independent media outlets to broadcast, distribute, and share information with the Libyan people.

(b) RISK MITIGATION AND ASSISTANCE MONITORING.—The Secretary of State and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that appropriate steps are taken to mitigate risk of diversion of assistance for Libya and ensure reliable third-party monitoring is utilized for projects in Libya that United States Government personnel are unable to access and monitor.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the activities carried out under subsection (a).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2021 to carry out subsection (a).

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Any expenditure of amounts made available to carry out subsection (a) shall be subject to the notification requirements applicable to—

(A) expenditures from the Economic Support Fund under section 531(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346(c)); and

(B) expenditures from the Development Assistance Fund under section 653(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2413(a)).

SEC. 303. ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO ADVANCE LIBYAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to support, in a way that is consistent with broader United States national interests, a Libyan-led process to develop a framework for the economic recovery of Libya and improved public sector financial management, complementary to United Nations-led peace efforts and in support of the future establishment of a sovereign state with democratic institutions and the rule of law in Libya.

(b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—To the extent consistent with broader United States national interests, the framework described in subsection (a) shall include the following policy proposals:

(1) To restore, respect, and safeguard the integrity, unity, and lawful governance of Libya’s key economic ministries and institutions, in particular the Central Bank of Libya, the Libya Investment Authority, the National Oil Corporation, and the Audit Bureau (AB).

(2) To improve the accountability and effectiveness of Libyan authorities, including sovereign economic institutions, in providing services and opportunity to the Libyan people.

(3) To assist in improving public financial management and reconciling the public accounts of national financial institutions and letters of credit issued by private Libyan financial institutions as needed pursuant to a political process.

(4) To restore the production, efficient management, and development of Libya’s oil

and gas industries so such industries are resilient against malign foreign influence and can generate prosperity on behalf of the Libyan people.

(5) To promote the development of private sector enterprise.

(6) To improve the transparency and accountability of public sector employment and wage distribution.

(7) To strengthen supervision of and reform of Libyan financial institutions.

(8) To eliminate exploitation of price controls and market distorting subsidies in the Libyan economy.

(9) To support opportunities for United States businesses.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In supporting the framework described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to encourage the institution to consult with relevant stakeholders in the financial, governance, and energy sectors.

(d) DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—In this section, the term “international financial institution” means the International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Development Association, International Finance Corporation, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, African Development Bank, African Development Fund, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa, and Inter-American Investment Corporation.

(e) TERMINATION.—The requirements of this section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2024.

SEC. 304. RECOVERING ASSETS STOLEN FROM THE LIBYAN PEOPLE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General should, to the extent practicable, advance a coordinated international effort—

(1) to carry out special financial investigations to identify and track assets taken from the people and institutions of Libya through theft, corruption, money laundering, or other illicit means; and

(2) to work with foreign governments—

(A) to share financial investigations intelligence, as appropriate;

(B) to oversee the assets identified pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(C) to provide technical assistance to help governments establish the necessary legal framework to carry out asset forfeitures.

(b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The coordinated international effort described in subsection (a) should include input from—

(1) the Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes of the Department of the Treasury;

(2) the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury; and

(3) the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section of the Department of Justice.

TITLE IV—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 401. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4644.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Libya Stabilization Act, an important piece of legislation introduced by the chairman and the ranking member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, Mr. DEUTCH, along with Ranking Member WILSON.

This bill responds to years of instability and violence in Libya, which has given Russia a new foothold in North Africa and contributed to the growth of violent extremist groups.

Though there is welcome news of an emerging ceasefire in Libya, facilitated by the United Nations, sporadic violence continues and dangerous militia groups remain active throughout the country.

The Libya Stabilization Act addresses these threats by sanctioning outside actors who fuel the conflict or perpetrate human rights abuses. The bill also directs additional U.S. support to humanitarian relief and assistance efforts to help strengthen democratic governance; build a better, peaceful future for Libya; and ensure the security of the U.S. and our allies.

It is in our interest to help prevent Libya from spiraling even further into lawlessness. A vacuum of leadership in Tripoli gives way to extremism, which poses threats to the United States, our allies, and partners.

I thank Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. WILSON for their work on this measure, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, November 9, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 4644, the “Libya Stabilization Act,” that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 4644, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the

Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4644, Libya Stabilization Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 4644 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,

Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4644, Libya Stabilization Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 4644 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on Financial Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,

*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 4644, the Libya Stabilization Act. In order to permit H.R. 4644 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consideration of H.R. 4644 in light of the mutually agreed changes to provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services. We are also doing so based on our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H.R. 4644 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward with regard to any matters in the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation that involves the Committee's jurisdiction and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 4644.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4644, the Libya Stabilization Act. Despite a U.N. arms embargo, foreign actors are continuing to support both sides of the conflict.

For example, Russia is supporting General Haftar's Libyan National Army. AFRICOM publishes pictures of advanced Russian aircraft in Libya. AFRICOM also estimates that Russia is supporting thousands of mercenaries from the Wagner Group and from Syria to fight for Haftar. Turkey has brought in more than 5,000 Syrian mercenaries to support the Government of National Accord.

Flooding Libya with foreign mercenaries and heavy weaponry could destabilize the country and region for generations.

We need to incentivize all parties to embrace a political track to establish stable governance in Libya and end the violence. That is the purpose of this legislation before us today.

I am pleased that since our committee first considered this bill over the summer, the U.N. has managed to broker a ceasefire. The parties are using this opportunity to continue negotiations regarding the future of Libya.

Unfortunately, as we have seen many times in this conflict, there is still the possibility that spoilers could upend this peace process.

That is why, under this legislation, if individuals are threatening the peace, security, and stability of Libya, they

will be subject to sanctions. But the bill clearly states that if there is a ceasefire in place, as there is at this time, at this very moment, then the sanctions do not apply.

We are using our leverage to support the emerging political process and a peaceful future for the people of Libya.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1315

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the author of this important bill and the chair of the Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I will speak to this bill in just a couple of seconds, but I want to pause, if I may, just to reflect on the Committee on Foreign Affairs bills that are on the floor today and what they say about the chairman of our committee, Mr. ENGEL.

Mr. ENGEL, for more than three decades in the United States House of Representatives, has led with American values representing human rights, standing with our allies, and standing up against autocrats all around the world. And since I don't know, because of the pandemic, how much floor time we will have in the coming days and weeks, I wanted to take this moment to express on behalf of not only myself but I know so many of his colleagues and friends around the country our deep appreciation for his leadership for all these years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today that we are considering the Libya Stabilization Act, a bipartisan bill that I introduced with my colleague, Middle East Subcommittee Ranking Member JOE WILSON.

As Mr. YOHO said, since we advanced this legislation out of committee in July, Libya experienced a cease-fire and a burst of diplomacy that I hope will bring increased security and, eventually, peace to all Libyans.

The most recent round of U.N.-led talks yielded an agreement to hold "free and fair, inclusive and credible" Presidential and parliamentary elections next year.

These are important accomplishments, and credit should be given to the Libyan representatives to the negotiations, as well as the U.N., the U.S. Embassy in Libya, and both the Tunisian and Egyptian Governments for hosting recent political and military discussions.

However, hard work and difficult compromises lie ahead. Recent talks failed to yield a transitional governmental administration. Public services like electricity continue to be limited or nonexistent.

Moreover, progress on securing withdrawal of weapons, foreign forces, and mercenaries from Libya remains elusive. And we should not forget that previous diplomatic efforts in Libya repeatedly failed.

That is why it is so important that we pass this bill today. It calls for a more active U.S. role in diplomacy, provides humanitarian assistance, and supports future elections, measures that will reinforce negotiations.

It also sanctions those who deploy mercenaries, support militias, violate the U.N. arms embargo, and commit human rights violations in Libya. The bill's punitive measures take effect if the cease-fire collapses, which will incentivize the warring parties to remain at the negotiating table rather than return to the battlefield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the bill that we will pass today demonstrates this Congress' interest in deescalating the conflict and that we support working with the U.N., our European allies, regional states, and Libyans to end the war and to help rebuild Libya.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILSON for his leadership on this issue. I also thank both the majority and minority staffs of the committee, and special thanks to Ryan Doherty of my staff for his tireless efforts in bringing this bill to this floor today.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for their leadership in introducing this bill, which I support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to once again thank Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. WILSON for their hard work in authorizing this measure.

I want to thank Mr. DEUTCH for his kind words. We have worked very closely together through the years on the Foreign Affairs Committee. He has been one of the best members—always there, always fighting, always principled—and I thank him for the nice, kind words he said about me.

We all say kind things about him because he is such an important member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and I have enjoyed serving with him all these years. So I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. Speaker, let me say, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this legislation, again, Mr. DEUTCH's and Mr. WILSON's hard work in authoring this measure. I urge all colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4644, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AFFIRMING NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF UNITED STATES-IRAQ BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1062) affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1062

Whereas the United States remains committed to supporting a sovereign and democratic Iraq at peace with its neighbors and safe for its citizens, regardless of their religion, sect, or ethnicity;

Whereas in 2014, forces of the Islamic State (commonly known as “IS” and also known as “ISIS” or “ISIL”) seized significant territory in Iraq, leading Iraq’s Prime Minister to request international military intervention;

Whereas the United States began military intervention against the Islamic State in Iraq in 2014, working with international coalition partners and Iraqi security forces to combat the Islamic State and to retake Iraqi territory from Islamic State fighters;

Whereas the Islamic State ruled areas it controlled with terror and brutal violence, including through heinous acts such as mass executions, public beheadings, desecration of holy sites, sexual enslavement and rape, and abuse and torture of minors;

Whereas the Government of Iraq declared military victory against the Islamic State in December 2017, but insurgent attacks by remaining terrorist fighters have continued and threaten peace and stability in some areas of Iraq;

Whereas an estimated 6 million Iraqis have been rendered internally displaced since 2014, of whom 1.4 million remain internally displaced;

Whereas members of religious and ethnic minority groups, including Iraqi Christian communities and Yazidis, faced particular brutality under the Islamic State and often lacked the resources and capacity for protection;

Whereas the Islamic State’s destructive rule and ensuing military campaign left large areas of key population centers uninhabitable, including Anbar, Salah al-Din, and Ninawa governorates, where efforts at resettlement, reconstruction, service delivery, governance, and security remain challenging;

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) 2020 humanitarian needs assessment previously anticipated that as many as 4.1 million Iraqis will need some form of humanitarian assistance in 2020, and humanitarian needs are likely to be further exacerbated by socio-economic disruptions attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the United States was the top donor to the 2018 and 2019 United Nations Iraq Humanitarian Response Plans and has contributed nearly \$2.75 billion to humanitarian relief efforts in Iraq since 2014, including more than \$750 million in humanitarian support since fiscal year 2018;

Whereas in July 2017, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported that “after decades of war, the sheer volume of explosive

devices renders Iraq one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world”;

Whereas multiple nongovernmental human rights organizations and media investigations have reported that areas still suffering from the lack of reconstruction, service delivery, governance, and security are acutely susceptible to re-radicalization by Islamic State underground cells or follow-on elements;

Whereas human rights organizations have reported that thousands of displaced Iraqis, including children, are unable to obtain or replace civil documentation due to displacement caused by Islamic State;

Whereas some paramilitary forces, including some elements of the “Popular Mobilization Units” or “PMUs” that mobilized to fight Islamic State terrorists have yet to be fully integrated into national security institutions and threaten civilian populations in some areas, including vulnerable minority groups;

Whereas in late 2019, some Iraqi security force units, including non-state militias, responded violently to peaceful protests resulting in the deaths of more than 550 Iraqi civilians and many more injured;

Whereas in 2019 and 2020, Iranian aligned militias, some of whom operate Iraqi PMUs conducted numerous attacks on United States and coalition forces in Iraq as well as Iraqi military facilities and Iraqi nationals, including a December 2019 attack that killed a United States citizen contractor and wounded others, and a March 2020, attack that killed a United States servicemember, a United States contractor, a British soldier, and injured at least a dozen other troops;

Whereas Iranian aligned militias and some PMUs were reportedly involved in the December 31, 2019, to January 1, 2020, siege on the United States Embassy in Baghdad, in which attackers set fire to structures and damaged property;

Whereas in July 2019 the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) informed the Department of Defense and Department of State Inspector General that the Islamic State in Iraq continues to recruit from isolated rural areas “exploiting perceived weaknesses and failures of the Iraqi government, particularly in Sunni areas where the population feels neglected”;

Whereas a July 2019 Department of Defense and Department of State Lead Inspector General (LIG) Report to Congress on Operation Inherent Resolve stated the “Department of State and USAID reported that the greatest obstacles preventing IDPs from returning . . . are lack of security and economic opportunity, and damage to housing” as well as a lack of “legal assistance to recover or renew identification documents”;

Whereas in March 2020 Iraq confirmed its first case of COVID-19, which soon spread throughout the country, straining Iraq’s already struggling healthcare system, and infecting 64,000 Iraqis and killing 2,685 Iraqis, including 592 Iraqi doctors, as of June 2020; and

Whereas the LIG reported in May 2020 that “the emergence of COVID-19 in Iraq has further restricted humanitarian access and presented a significant risk to internally displaced person (IDP) and refugee camps across the country”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports a sovereign and democratic Iraq at peace with its neighbors and safe for its citizens, regardless of religion, sect, or ethnicity;

(2) calls on the Administration to provide continued support for Iraqi efforts to ensure stability and security for a democratic Iraq;

(3) calls on the Government of Iraq to take all appropriate action to protect United States diplomats and United States servicemembers, including by holding accountable those involved in the December 31, 2019, through January 1, 2020, attack on the United States Embassy;

(4) supports robust exercise by Iraqis of the rights to free speech and assembly as guaranteed to them by the Constitution of Iraq;

(5) calls on the Government of Iraq to hold accountable all those responsible for violence against peaceful protestors, including members of Iraqi security forces as applicable;

(6) calls on all countries to continue upholding the principle of non-refoulement for refugees subject to violence, persecution, or death if forcibly returned to Iraq, including for reasons of religious persecution, and to assist internally displaced Iraqis to safely and voluntarily return to their homes;

(7) encourages the United States to continue to work with bilateral and multilateral partners and international nongovernmental organizations on the stabilization of Iraq;

(8) calls on the Administration to continue assisting religious and ethnic minority communities targeted by the Islamic State for genocide;

(9) calls on the Administration to continue to work with the Government of Iraq to eliminate child labor and forced labor in Iraq;

(10) supports expanded bilateral trade and investment between the United States and Iraq;

(11) supports development of an Iraqi private sector based on rule of law and free market principles;

(12) supports the 2020 United States-Iraq Strategic Dialogues and the principles agreed upon by both the United States and Iraq in such Dialogues and the fostering of continued dialogue based on such Dialogues;

(13) calls on the Administration to continue providing medical assistance to support the Iraqi healthcare sector in combating COVID-19; and

(14) calls on the Government of Iraq to allow humanitarian and stabilization assistance programs to be implemented without bureaucratic delays or impediments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1062, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Congressmen ALLRED and RESCHENTHALER’s resolution affirming the importance of the United States-Iraq relationship.

Iraq faces many challenges. ISIS cells are beginning to reemerge; coronavirus cases have climbed in recent months; and Iraq’s economy, like much of the globe, is suffering. When

Iraq grapples with such challenges, the United States must show up to demonstrate leadership and friendship.

This bipartisan resolution expresses support for sovereign, democratic Iraq and strong relations between our two nations, while also highlighting the need to address humanitarian challenges facing Iraq, such as internal displacement, violence against minority religious and ethnic groups, and recovery of communities impacted by the counter-ISIS fight.

H. Res. 1062 also calls on Iraq to take all necessary steps to protect United States diplomats and servicemembers. When diplomats are able to do their job safely, investment in a growing economy can follow, benefiting the Iraqi people and their livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for putting forth this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1062. Affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1062 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H. Res. 1062. Affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also

reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 1062.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1062, reaffirming the U.S.-Iraq bilateral relationship.

In recent years, the United States and Iraq worked together to defeat the caliphate and free the Iraqi people from ISIS' tyrannical rule.

The American people are committed to supporting a sovereign and democratic Iraq. We have provided billions of dollars in foreign assistance to help Iraqis recover from the devastating impact that ISIS has had on their lives.

This year, the United States and Iraq held a strategic dialogue to further our bilateral relationship and discuss how we can continue to work together for our shared benefit.

With this resolution, the House is reaffirming our commitment to helping the Iraqi people and calling on the Iraqi Government to fulfill its commitments too.

The Iraqi Government needs to protect the United States' diplomats and servicemembers and hold accountable those involved in attacks against our Embassy, such as earlier this year.

The Government of Iraq also needs to hold accountable those responsible for violence against peaceful protesters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his work on this bipartisan resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCIENTHALER) for their leadership in introducing this bipartisan resolution, which I support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me today in supporting this important resolution, H. Res. 1062, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1062, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIGHTING EMERGING NARCOTICS THROUGH ADDITIONAL NATIONS TO YIELD LASTING RESULTS ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7990) to prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7990

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fighting Emerging Narcotics Through Additional Nations to Yield Lasting Results Act" or the "FENTANYL Results Act".

SEC. 2. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN COVERED SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs by carrying out programs and activities to include the following:

(1) Supporting increased data collection by the United States and foreign countries through increased drug use surveys among populations, increased use of wastewater testing where appropriate, and multilateral sharing of that data.

(2) Engaging in increased consultation and partnership with international drug agencies, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and regulatory agencies in foreign countries.

(3) Carrying out the program to provide assistance to build the capacity of foreign law enforcement agencies with respect to covered synthetic drugs, as required by section 3.

(4) Carrying out exchange programs for governmental and nongovernmental personnel in the United States and in foreign countries to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters relating to the illicit use of narcotics and other drugs, as required by section 4.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this section.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO COVERED SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 660 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2420), the Secretary of State shall establish a program to provide assistance to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies of the countries described in subsection (c) to help such agencies to identify, track,

and improve their forensics detection capabilities with respect to covered synthetic drugs.

(b) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary of State shall prioritize assistance under subsection (a) among those countries described in subsection (c) in which such assistance would have the most impact in reducing illicit use of covered synthetic drugs in the United States.

(c) **COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.**—The foreign countries described in this subsection are—

(1) countries that are producers of covered synthetic drugs;

(2) countries whose pharmaceutical and chemical industries are being exploited for development or procurement of precursors of covered synthetic drugs; or

(3) major drug-transit countries as defined by the President.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$4,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 4. EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON DEMAND REDUCTION MATTERS RELATING TO ILLEGAL USE OF NARCOTICS AND OTHER DRUGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall carry out an exchange program for governmental and nongovernmental personnel in the United States and foreign countries to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters relating to the illicit use of narcotics and other drugs.

(b) **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**—The program required by subsection (a)—

(1) shall be limited to individuals who have expertise and experience in matters described in subsection (a);

(2) in the case of inbound exchanges, may be carried out as part of exchange programs and international visitor programs administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, including the International Visitor Leadership Program; and

(3) shall include outbound exchanges for governmental and nongovernmental personnel in the United States.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to carry out exchange programs and international visitor programs administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each such fiscal year.

SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) **INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT.**—Section 489(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) **SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS AND NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.**—

“(A) **SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS.**—Information that contains an assessment of the countries significantly involved in the manufacture, production, or transshipment of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, to include the following:

“(i) The scale of legal domestic production and any available information on the number of manufacturers and producers of such opioids in such countries.

“(ii) Information on any law enforcement assessments of the scale of illegal production, including a description of the capacity of illegal laboratories to produce such opioids.

“(iii) The types of inputs used and a description of the primary methods of synthesis employed by illegal producers of such opioids.

“(iv) An assessment of the policies of such countries to regulate licit manufacture and interdict illicit manufacture, diversion, distribution, and shipment of such opioids and an assessment of the effectiveness of the policies' implementation.

“(B) **NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.**—Information on the policies of responding to new psychoactive substances (as such term is defined in section 7 of the FENTANYL Results Act), to include the following:

“(i) Which governments have articulated policies on scheduling of such substances.

“(ii) Any data on impacts of such policies and other responses to such substances.

“(iii) An assessment of what policies the United States may want to consider articulating.”

(b) **DEFINITION OF MAJOR ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCING COUNTRY.**—Section 481(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “means a country in which—” and inserting “means—

“(A) a country in which—”;

(B) by striking “(A) 1,000” and inserting the following:

“(i) 1,000”;

(C) by striking “(B) 1,000” and inserting the following:

“(ii) 1,000”;

(D) by striking “(C) 5,000” and inserting the following:

“(iii) 5,000”;

(E) in subparagraph (A)(iii), as redesignated by this subsection, by adding “or” at the end; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) a country which is a significant direct source of illicit narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances significantly affecting the United States.”; and

(2) in paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) the term ‘major drug-transit country’ means a country through which illicit narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances significantly affecting the United States are transported.”

SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should direct the United States Representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States at the United Nations to advocate for more transparent assessments of countries by the International Narcotics Control Board; and

(2) bilateral, plurilateral, and multilateral international cooperation is essential to combating the trafficking of covered synthetic drugs.

SEC. 7. DEFINITION.

In this Act:

(1) The term “covered synthetic drug” means—

(A) a synthetic controlled substance (as defined in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802(6))), including fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue; or

(B) a new psychoactive substance.

(2) The term “new psychoactive substance” means a substance of abuse, or any preparation thereof, that—

(A) is not—

(i) included in any schedule as a controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.); or

(ii) controlled by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs signed at New York, New York, on March 30, 1961 or the Convention on Psychotropic Substances signed at Vienna, Austria, on February 21, 1971;

(B) is new or has reemerged on the illicit market; and

(C) poses a threat to the public health and safety.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7990, as amended.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, far too many Americans have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of drug abuse. According to the Centers for Disease Control, our country saw the largest increase in overdose deaths from 2018 to 2019. That is why this bill comes before us at a critical time, and I thank the author, Mr. TRONE, for his leadership and hard work on this bill and on the entire subject.

Fentanyl is one of the most dangerous synthetic opioids contributing to the opioid crisis, and since it is largely manufactured outside of the United States, it is critical that we engage closely with our international partners to combat this scourge.

The FENTANYL Results Act requires the State Department to update its approach to illegal synthetic drugs. This bill opens strong channels of communications with foreign drug enforcement agencies, trains countries on how to combat synthetic drug production, and promotes exchange programs for renowned experts who can share their findings around the world.

With such an imposing task ahead of us, international cooperation is critical. It is not enough to tackle this issue domestically; we also must work together with our partners around the world to stop the transit of these illicit substances.

I was pleased that the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed this bill unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FENTANYL Results Act.

The opioid crisis continues to have a devastating effect on Americans across this great Nation. It is imperative we use all the tools at our disposal to fully address this problem.

The FENTANYL Results Act ensures that we leverage the role of the State Department in this whole-of-government effort. Specifically, this bill requires the Secretary of State to

prioritize efforts to combat international trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

A key provision of this bill authorizes the Secretary to provide assistance to foreign law enforcement agencies, including those in drug-transit countries, to stem the illicit flow of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs across our borders.

This bill requires the Secretary to foster greater partnerships with international drug agencies and increase data collection to keep pace with emerging synthetic drug use that could be exploited by the international trafficking networks.

It also addresses the demand side of this problem by authorizing an action change program to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters.

This bill is an important measure to continue our aggressive fight against this deadly fentanyl epidemic, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), the author of this important bill, and a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my bill, the FENTANYL Results Act, that will help increase global cooperation in the fight against synthetic drug trafficking.

My nephew, Ian Trone, died 4 years ago of a fentanyl overdose at the age of 24, and since his passing, we have seen a dramatic and alarming increase in fentanyl and other synthetic opioid deaths across our country.

In 2019, there were nearly 71,000 overdose deaths in the United States, the highest number ever recorded. Most disturbingly, this number reversed the promising decrease in deaths we saw in 2018.

Why did we see a spike last year? Because fentanyl is showing up in more and more parts of the United States.

Mixed in with heroin, meth, and cocaine, fentanyl is causing more accidental overdoses and more deaths.

We know that fentanyl is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine.

Some synthetics, like carfentanil, are even deadlier, some 10,000 times stronger than morphine.

In 2018, two-thirds of all opioid-related deaths involved synthetic opioids.

This rise in opioid deaths is especially alarming because of the significant impact we know the COVID pandemic has had on the opioid epidemic.

In Maryland, fentanyl was involved in 93 percent of all opioid-related deaths for the first 6 months of 2020, and fentanyl-involved deaths were up 12 percent in the second quarter compared to the same time last year.

We need to act now if we are going to put an end to these senseless deaths. We cannot do it alone.

The FENTANYL Results Act instructs the Secretary of State to:

Support increased data collection by the U.S. and other countries on drug use and make sure we share that data.

Increase consultation with international drug agencies and foreign regulatory agencies.

Implement technical assistance programs to build partner capacity in forensic detection capabilities.

And run international exchange programs among demand reduction experts and scientists.

The U.S. can't fight its way out of this alone. We need to work together on demand reduction at home, and we are doing that with stronger prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

But we need to cooperate with international partners to stem the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States.

This means working with them to detect fentanyl and its precursors before these drugs leave the borders.

This means establishing best practices to reduce demand globally, so we have less of a market for these illicit substances.

This means recognizing that greater cooperation serves us all. It is in no country's interest to fuel the opioid epidemic.

I thank Ranking Member MCCAUL for coleading this bipartisan bill with me. Ranking Member MCCAUL has been a champion on this bipartisan issue long before I came to Congress, and I look forward to continuing our relationship.

I also thank Chairman ENGEL for helping move the bill through the Foreign Affairs Committee and making sure we take every possible step to end the flow of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs in the United States. We will miss your leadership here in Congress next year, and we know your service has a long way to go in the future.

We need to tackle the opioid epidemic from every angle, and that includes working with our international partners to curb drug trafficking and save lives. This bill helps us do this. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I want to thank Representative TRONE for his work on this issue.

We all know someone, unfortunately, who has suffered from addiction. We must remain committed to defeating substance abuse and saving American lives. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I, too, would like to thank Chairman ENGEL for his years of dedication and service to the State of New York and to this Nation and his friendship. It has been an honor to work with you, sir. It has been an honor to know you, and I wish the best of life to you and Pat in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for his kind words. I really appreciate it.

I, again, thank Mr. TRONE for being a great champion on this issue and for his kind words.

This is the kind of cooperation we have on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I really have been honored to preside over it and to have been on the committee for so many years. These are important issues that affect real people. The Foreign Affairs Committee has always been at the forefront of these issues because of the gentlemen and women that you just heard. We call ourselves the most bipartisan committee, and I think it is true.

I, again, thank Mr. TRONE for being a great champion on this issue, and, Mr. YOHO, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7990, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7276) to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to eradicate locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7276

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Desert Locust Control Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to prioritize efforts to control the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability, improve interagency coordination to prevent future outbreaks, and promote resilience in affected countries.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Agency for International Development reports that countries in East Africa are currently suffering the worst desert locust outbreak in decades, which will devour crops and pasture and destroy local livelihoods across the region.

(2) As of June 2020, there were more than 26 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, and Djibouti, and these numbers are projected to increase if the desert locust outbreak is not controlled.

(3) As the desert locust outbreak continues, there may be insufficient resources to continue to conduct aerial spraying and without such resources the current outbreak could develop into a plague by the end of 2020.

(4) The desert locust outbreak in East Africa, particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, is negatively impacting food security, local livelihoods and economic productivity, and may threaten political stability in the region.

(5) Proactive investments now to control the desert locust outbreak could reduce the need for a much larger United States humanitarian response effort later, as well as support economic and political stability and build resilience in affected countries.

(6) In order to optimize the United States response to the desert locust outbreak, an interagency working group should be established to develop and implement a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, mitigate impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability and prevent future outbreaks.

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President shall establish an interagency working group to coordinate the United States response to the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, including the development of a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the outbreak, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability, and prevent future outbreaks.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The interagency working group shall be composed of the following:

(A) Two representatives from the United States Agency for International Development.

(B) One representative from each of the following:

- (i) The United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.
- (ii) The National Security Council.
- (iii) The Department of State.
- (iv) The Department of Defense.
- (v) The Department of Agriculture.
- (vi) Any other relevant Federal department or agency.

(2) **CHAIR.**—The President shall designate one of the representatives from the United States Agency for International Development described in paragraph (1)(A) to serve as chair of the interagency working group.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The interagency working group shall—

(1) assess the scope of the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, including its impact on food security, economic productivity, and political stability in affected countries;

(2) assess the impacts of restrictions relating to the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID-19”) pandemic;

(3) monitor the effectiveness of ongoing assistance efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and mitigate its impacts and identify gaps and opportunities for additional support to such programs;

(4) review the effectiveness of regional and multilateral efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and the coordination among relevant United States Government agencies, regional governments, and inter-

national organizations, including the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; and

(5) not later than 90 days after the establishment of the interagency working group under subsection (a), develop and submit to the President and the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust outbreak, including a description of efforts to—

(A) improve coordination among relevant United States Government agencies, regional governments, and international organizations, including the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization;

(B) ensure delivery of necessary assets control the desert locust outbreak and humanitarian and development assistance to address and mitigate impacts to food security, economic productivity, and political stability; and

(C) to the extent practicable, prevent and mitigate future desert locust and other, similar destructive insect outbreaks (such as Fall Armyworm) in Africa and other parts of the world, which require a humanitarian response.

(d) **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP SUPPORT.**—The interagency working group shall continue to meet not less than semi-annually to facilitate implementation of the comprehensive, strategic plan required by subsection (c)(5).

(e) **SUNSET.**—This section shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, or at such time as there is no longer an upsurge in the desert locust outbreak in East Africa, whichever occurs earlier.

(f) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7276.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Desert Locust Control Act, and I thank Mr. SMITH for bringing forward this very important legislation.

In late 2019, swarms of locusts entered the Horn of Africa from the Gulf of Aden, multiplying and spreading throughout the region.

Locusts are highly mobile and can consume vast amounts of vegetation in a short period of time. Even a small swarm can consume crops that would feed up to 35,000 people in day. They have devastated large swaths of farm-

land through east Africa, including Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia and across the Red Sea in Yemen.

Food security is already hanging by a thread in these regions, and efforts to control the locusts have been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of reliable data, and the geographical reach of the swarm across multiple countries.

The Desert Locust Control Act would step up coordination of efforts to evaluate and respond to the locust outbreak across the United States Government, bringing in the support of the U.S. mission to the Food and Agricultural Organization, USAID, and others to effectively respond to the outbreak.

We have already seen the ripple effects of the coronavirus pandemic on poverty, food insecurity, health, and education. We must ensure that we do not let this locust plague compound those challenges.

I, again, thank Mr. SMITH for his leadership in authoring this measure.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will begin by thanking our distinguished chairman, ELIOT ENGEL, for his extraordinary leadership as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for all these years. He is a good friend. We have worked on so many issues together. I thank him again for his leadership. It has been extraordinary. Your bipartisanship has been an example to us all, so I thank you for that, Eliot, and I really mean that deeply.

I also thank my good friend and colleague from Texas, the ranking member, MICHAEL MCCAUL, for his support of this legislation and other important initiatives.

Also, Eliot, thank you again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7276, the Desert Locust Control Act, which I introduced along with my good friend and colleague, KAREN BASS. She is chairwoman, as you know, of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations Subcommittee. I am the ranking member. In previous times I was the chairman, and she was my ranking member, and we have worked very closely together on all issues dealing with the health and well-being of people around the world through the global health portion of our portfolio, but also, with a very particular emphasis on Africa.

This bipartisan bill would create an interagency task force that would address the crisis of increasingly biblical proportions caused by swarms of desert locusts, which have been compounded by the COVID crisis, which our country and so many other nations are dealing with.

Indeed, as serious as COVID has been, and it has been serious, as we all know, the unfortunate fact is that there are many other threats to the welfare and

well-being of so many people in the developing world, including Sub-Saharan Africa, where the likelihood of food insecurity looms larger thanks to the pandemic.

Just how bad is it?

Swarms of hundreds of millions of locusts darken the sky, descend upon an area, stripping it entirely of its vegetation. Crops are just decimated in a matter of minutes and hours.

Unfortunately, due in part to this bad timing with a pandemic, we are witnessing the real possibility of famine in many countries of east Africa, where over 27 million people are now estimated to be suffering from acute food insecurity, which is defined as the sudden lack of food or the ability to produce or access minimum requirements of food.

I should note that in the case of one of the nations most impacted, Ethiopia, the political situation has simultaneously deteriorated, so that the country is now on the brink of civil war with the added crisis of refugees fleeing conflicted areas added to the mix of cascading calamities and compounding crises.

Indeed, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the FAO, estimates that this infestation of locusts will persist until at least March 2021 in both Ethiopia and Somalia.

Our bill would create an interagency working group comprised of representatives of the USAID, State, the NSC, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture to formulate a strategic plan to address this and future locust outbreaks, as well as other similarly destructive pests, such as fall armyworm, which wreaks tremendous havoc on crops annually.

The working group would also include a representative from our mission to the United Nations food agencies based in Rome, where our current ambassador, Kip Tom, is doing a stellar job interacting with both the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as locust-impacted countries.

Ambassador Kip Tom has briefed me and others repeatedly. We have talked about best practices on the phone in Skype phone calls, and again, I want to single him out for the tremendous job that he has done in trying to mitigate this crisis.

The World Food Programme has also been a tremendous help, as it has been in so many other places around the world, under the extraordinary leadership of David Beasley.

□ 1345

Indeed, the international community has recognized the yeoman's work by awarding the World Food Program the Nobel Peace Prize.

Ambassador Tom has been pushing the FAO in particular to proactively address the problem and adopt the better use of technology. For example, use of apps on smartphones in Kenya advocated by the Ambassador has led to

roughly 80 percent of the data collected on the location of desert locusts, thereby allowing for the targeted mobilization of aerial assets for locust eradication and control.

It is innovation such as this, and the adoption of best practices, which our interagency group will focus on identifying and implementing. Indeed, we also think that the working group will help ensure that our taxpayer dollars are spent in the most effective way possible. The United States Government has committed over \$24 million to the USAID, and that has made a difference as well.

While the focus of our bill is on East Africa, other countries like Yemen, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are threatened by these spreading swarms as well. Indeed, Yemen has become a breeding ground for locusts crossing over into the Horn of Africa, compounding the problem caused by indigenous swarms in the countries of the Horn.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for the bill. And again, I thank our distinguished chairman for his leadership on this bill and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. SMITH for his work on this legislation. Mr. SMITH, through the years, has done great work on so many issues. I think he is the only one on the Foreign Affairs Committee that has actually been there longer than I have. We have collaborated on a good many projects, bipartisan projects, through the years. I thank Mr. SMITH for being such a good member of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation. It is very important. It is very important for our country. It is very important for the world. I urge all my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7276, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5586) to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti and the strength of democracy and rule of law in the country, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5586

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck near the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince, leaving an estimated 220,000 people dead, including 103 United States citizens, 101 United Nations personnel, and nearly 18 percent of the nation's civil service, as well as 300,000 injured, 115,000 homes destroyed, and 1,500,000 people displaced.

(2) The Post Disaster Needs Assessment conducted by the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and others estimated that damage and economic losses from the January 12, 2010, earthquake totaled \$7,804,000,000.

(3) The international community, led by the United States and the United Nations, mounted an unprecedented humanitarian response to the earthquake in Haiti. Through 2018, more than \$8 billion has been disbursed by donors. Since the 2010 earthquake, the United States Government has disbursed more than \$4,000,000,000 in recovery and development funding.

(4) On October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew struck southwestern Haiti on the Tiburon Peninsula, causing widespread damage and flooding and leaving 1.4 million people in need of immediate assistance. Recovery efforts continue more than three years later.

(5) Prior to both the earthquake and hurricane, Haiti registered among the lowest socioeconomic indicators and had the second highest rate of income disparity in the world - conditions that have further complicated disaster recovery and resilience efforts.

(6) In June 2019 the World Food Program reported that Haiti has one of the highest levels of chronic food insecurity in the world, with more than half of its total population chronically food insecure and 22 percent of children chronically malnourished.

(7) In October 2010, an unprecedented outbreak of cholera in Haiti resulted in over 800,000 reported cases and over 9,000 deaths to date. The Pan American Health Organization reported in 2018 that the cholera incidence rate in Haiti is 25.5 cases per 100,000.

(8) With United States assistance, almost 14,000 jobs have been created since the 2010 earthquake, largely in the apparel industry at the Caracol Industrial Park (in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Haitian Government, and the private sector) in northern Haiti.

(9) According to the Haitian National Human Rights Defense Network, on November 13, 2018, at least 59 people were shot and killed in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of La Saline. After months of investigations, no one has been held responsible for the La Saline massacre.

(10) Since 2018, tens of thousands of Haitians have participated in popular demonstrations demanding accountability over government management of Petrocaribe resources. In early 2019, the Haitian superior court of auditors released a series of reports implicating high-level government officials in the misappropriation of funds.

(11) From August 2018 through February 2019, local human rights organizations reported that 64 Haitian citizens were killed in protests.

(12) According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, five Haitian journalists were shot while covering protests in 2019 and one was killed. On September 23, 2019, Associated Press photojournalist Chery Dieu-Nalio was shot by Haitian Senator Jean Marie Ralph F  thi  re when the Senator fired multiple shots near a crowd outside of parliament.

(13) Economic growth in Haiti is projected to drop below 1.5 percent this year. Inflation is estimated to be 15 percent and the local currency has depreciated by 30 percent in the past year. The Haitian government and parliament have failed to pass a budget for two years, preventing the International Monetary Fund and other multilaterals from disbursing millions in international assistance.

(14) Midterm elections set for October 2019 did not take place, and since January 2020 President Mo  se has ruled by decree.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to support the sustainable rebuilding and development of Haiti in a manner that—

(1) recognizes Haitian independence, self-reliance, sovereignty, democratic governance, and efficiency;

(2) promotes Haitian-led efforts for reconstruction and development of Haiti;

(3) strengthens the capacity of civil society and supports private sector initiatives that foster economic opportunities in Haiti;

(4) fosters collaboration between the Haitian diaspora in the United States and the Haitian Government;

(5) combats impunity and prioritizes delivering justice to victims of human rights abuses;

(6) ensures the protection of press freedoms and promotion of a free and independent Haitian press;

(7) promotes respect for freedom of assembly and the rights of Haitians to peacefully demonstrate;

(8) demands increased transparency and accountability among all branches of government and supports anti-corruption and addresses human rights concerns;

(9) prioritizes strengthening community resilience to environmental and weather-related impacts; and

(10) promotes democratic principles, including free, fair, and timely elections in accordance with the Haitian Constitution.

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN HAITI AND HOLDING PERPETRATORS OF LA SALINE MASSACRE ACCOUNTABLE.

(a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize the protection of human rights and anti-corruption efforts in Haiti by—

(1) fostering strong relationships with independent civil society groups focused on monitoring corruption and human rights abuses and promoting democracy in Haiti;

(2) supporting the efforts of the Haitian Government to identify human rights violators and corrupt actors in Haiti, including public and private sector actors, and hold them accountable for their actions; and

(3) addressing concerns of impunity for alleged orchestrators of the La Saline massacre.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with nongovernmental organizations in Haiti and the United States, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed assessment of the happenings on November 13, 2018, in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood

of La Saline. The assessment shall include the following:

(A) An examination of any links between the massacre in La Saline and mass protests that occurred concurrently in the country.

(B) An analysis of the reports on the La Saline massacre authored by the United Nations, the European Union, and the Haitian Government.

(C) A detailed description of all known actors implicated in the shooting.

(D) An overview of efforts taken by the Haitian Government to bring the orchestrators of the La Saline massacre to justice.

(E) An assessment of the ensuing treatment and displacement of the La Saline shooting survivors.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The assessment required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND ASSEMBLY IN HAITI.

The Secretary of State shall prioritize the promotion of press and assembly freedoms, as well as the protection of journalists, in Haiti by—

(1) advocating for increased protections for the press and the freedom to peacefully assemble in Haiti;

(2) collaborating with government and nongovernment officials to develop and implement legal protections for journalists in Haiti;

(3) supporting efforts to strengthen transparency and access to information in Haiti;

(4) ensuring that threats and attacks on journalists and protesters are fully investigated and perpetrators are held accountable;

(5) developing increased protection measures for peaceful protesters in accordance with Haitian law; and

(6) financing efforts to strengthen capacity for independent journalists and increase support for investigative journalism.

SEC. 6. ACTIONS TO SUPPORT POST-EARTHQUAKE AND POST-HURRICANE RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT IN HAITI.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall prioritize post-earthquake and post-hurricane recovery and development efforts in Haiti by—

(1) collaborating with the Haitian Government on a detailed and transparent development plan that includes clear objectives and benchmarks;

(2) building the capacity of local institutions through post-earthquake and post-hurricane recovery and development planning;

(3) assessing the impact of both the United States' and the international community's recovery and development efforts in Haiti over the past 10 years;

(4) supporting disaster resilience and reconstruction efforts; and

(5) addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality, including by providing health resources, access to clean water, food, and shelter.

SEC. 7. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A strategy for carrying out the initiatives described in sections 4, 5, and 6, including established baselines, benchmarks, and indicators to measure outcomes and impact.

(2) An assessment of corruption in Haiti, including an analysis of corruption among

the public and private sectors, a list of government and nongovernment officials known or alleged to have partaken in corruption or human rights violations, and a list of United States entities, including financial institutions, with financial ties to alleged corrupt actors in Haiti.

(3) An overview of efforts taken by the Haitian Government to address public and private sector corruption.

(4) A description of United States Government efforts to consult and engage with Haitian Government officials and independent civil society groups focused on monitoring corruption and human rights abuses and promoting democracy in Haiti to address the Petrocaribe scandal and other acts of corruption within the Haitian Government.

(5) An assessment of the Haitian Government's efforts to support displaced survivors of urban and gang violence.

(6) A detailed description of all known attacks on journalists in the past since the beginning of "country lock" protests in July 2018.

(7) An assessment of the Haitian Government's response to civic protests that have taken place since July 2018 and any allegations of human rights abuses.

(8) An analysis of the Haitian Government's efforts to increase protection for journalists.

(9) A description of United States Government-led efforts to promote press freedom in Haiti over the last three years and an outline of any additional best practices the United States Government can employ to promote press freedom and the freedom of expression in Haiti.

(10) A plan, developed in collaboration with the Haitian Government, to support development goals that includes the following:

(A) Strengthening institutions at the national and local levels.

(B) Strengthening democratic governance at the national and local levels.

(11) A description of best practices to ensure efficient and transparent earthquake and hurricane recovery and development efforts in Haiti.

(12) An analysis of the effectiveness and sustainability of United States-financed development projects, including the Caracol Industrial Park and supporting infrastructure.

(13) A breakdown of local procurement by year and a description of efforts to increase local procurement, including food aid.

(14) The design of quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess progress and benchmarks for United States initiatives focused on natural disaster recovery, resilience, and sustainable development in Haiti.

(15) A description of United States efforts taken to assist the Haitian people in their pursuits for free and fair democratic elections.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall consult with nongovernmental organizations and civil society groups in Haiti and the United States, as well as the Government of Haiti where appropriate.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

SEC. 8. DEFINITION.

In this Act the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 5586.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking Mr. JEFFRIES for authoring this bipartisan bill. He has been a strong advocate for the Haitian people, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue.

There are many, many colleagues in this Congress who feel very strongly about the U.S. relationship with Haiti. I am certainly one of them, and I know Mr. SMITH is and, of course, Mr. JEFFRIES and many other people on our committee.

We have Haiti, which is not that far from the United States, and is really, I think, an obligation of the United States, helping the people of Haiti. There has been such misery and such problems there that they really need our help, our continued and sustained help.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JEFFRIES for his leadership on this issue.

On January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, displacing 1.5 million people and killing more than 200,000.

Less than 2 months after the earthquake, I had the opportunity to visit Haiti and survey the damage. I stand here today with the same message my colleagues and I delivered to the Haitian people 10 years ago: The United States remains steadfast in its commitment to assist Haiti in its time of need.

Over the last decade, Congress has worked closely with the Haitian-American diaspora, the Haitian people, and the Haitian Government to support rebuilding and development efforts on the island, but Haiti still has a long way to go.

As we support efforts to reconstruct Haiti, we must learn from our mistakes over the past 10 years and devise innovative solutions to overcome the many remaining challenges.

At the same time, it is imperative that the Haitian Government address the growing and legitimate concerns about the country's deteriorating human rights situations, attacks against the press and peaceful protesters as well, and the lack of accountability for corrupt officials.

The Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency

Initiative Act will help move us toward these goals. It evaluates the effectiveness of U.S. recovery and development efforts in Haiti over the past 10 years. It also promotes new strategies to enhance the rule of law, encourage freedom of the press, combat government corruption, address the root causes of poverty, and improve developmental efforts.

It is the duty of all of us here in Congress to stand with the Haitian people. Geographically, they are so close to the United States, and there are many Haitian Americans as well.

We need to stand with the Haitian people as they fight for a more prosperous and democratic Haiti, and I urge the Haitian Government to do all it can to engage with their citizens and truly listen to their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased that the House Foreign Affairs Committee advanced this bipartisan bill unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5586, the Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act, authored by Mr. JEFFRIES and ANN WAGNER.

Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and continues to struggle under fragile public institutions. As we speak, Haiti is facing a constitutional crisis without a sitting parliament after failing to organize legislative elections in 2019. We continue to encourage the Government of Haiti to hold these elections as soon as possible.

Haiti continues to struggle with disaster recovery from the earthquake in 2010 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, as well as civil unrest, increasing gang violence, and accusations of government corruption and human rights abuses.

Haiti remains the second largest recipient of U.S. assistance in the region, including over \$128 million in foreign assistance appropriated by Congress in 2019 for economic development, democracy and rule of law, and critical support for the Haitian National Police.

This legislation prioritizes anticorruption efforts, press freedoms, and human rights, and it requires the Department of State to develop a strategy with benchmarks and indicators to measure the progress toward stated objectives for U.S. assistance.

This bill also requires an assessment of U.S. support for disaster resilience to ensure that our assistance is effectuating Haiti's recovery efforts and strengthening infrastructure against future disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New

York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the author of this important bill, the chair of our Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from New York, even though it is Brooklyn.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL from the Boogie Down Bronx, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to take a moment of personal privilege just to thank Chairman ENGEL for his friendship, his support, and his extraordinary leadership year after year on behalf of the people of New York City and the Nation as a critically important member of the House Democratic Caucus and a tremendous, legendary public servant.

Today, we vote on H.R. 5586, the Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act, a bill to upgrade the U.S. foreign assistance strategy to Haiti.

Haiti was the first nation in the Caribbean to gain independence. It is the world's first Black-led republic, home to resilient and entrepreneurial people. Haiti has tremendous potential to thrive as a free, fair, and prosperous democracy.

I am proud to represent a vibrant community of Haitian Americans in Brooklyn and Queens, including Little Haiti in Brooklyn, which is a neighboring congressional district represented by Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE.

As much of the diaspora has communicated to me, unfortunately, Haiti still faces severe challenges in its quest to achieve full prosperity for its people and the opportunity to live in a free, democratic society.

This January marked the 10-year anniversary of the catastrophic Haiti earthquake that killed and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Since 2010, Haiti has gone through additional hardships like Hurricane Matthew, fuel shortages, food insecurity, and now the coronavirus pandemic.

Many Haitians are frustrated by the corruption, poverty, and undemocratic practices on the island. Since 2018, mass demonstrations in Haiti protested the country's economic situation and the Haitian Government's apparent misappropriation of the Petrocaribe oil dollars.

Tens of thousands of protesters also demanded the resignation of the current President, who has been ruling by decree since January 2020.

H.R. 5586 directs the State Department and USAID to evaluate the effectiveness and shortcomings of U.S. foreign aid to Haiti over the past 10 years. The bill also directs these two agencies to devise new approaches to reduce poverty and promote good governance.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ELIOT ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL, Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chairman SIREN and Ranking Member ROONEY, Congresswoman

ANN WAGNER, and Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the aisle, as well as the organizations supporting this bipartisan bill.

The United States should always stand with our neighbor in the Western Hemisphere and the Haitian people as they fight for a self-governing, democratic, and prosperous nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I once again thank Mr. JEFFRIES for authoring this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5586, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill To measure the progress of recovery and efforts to address corruption, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1400

CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7703) to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7703

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$74,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative to achieve the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes described in this subsection are the following:

(1) To promote citizen safety, security, and the rule of law in the Caribbean through increased strategic engagement with the governments of beneficiary countries and with elements of local civil society, including the private sector, in such countries.

(2) To carry out the promotion of such safety, security, and the rule of law through efforts including the following:

(A) Capacity building for law enforcement and military units, including professionalization, anti-corruption and

human rights training, vetting, and community-based policing.

(B) Maritime and aerial security cooperation, including assistance to strengthen Caribbean maritime and aerial interdiction operations capability and the provision of support systems and equipment, training, and maintenance.

(C) Border and port security cooperation, including support to strengthen capacity for screening and to intercept narcotics, weapons, bulk cash, and other contraband at airports and seaports.

(D) Support for justice sector reform and strengthening of the rule of law, including capacity building for prosecutors, judges, and other justice officials, and support to increase the efficacy of criminal courts.

(E) Cybersecurity and cybercrime cooperation, including capacity-building and support for cybersecurity systems.

(F) Countering transnational criminal organizations and local gang activity, including capacity-building, equipment, and support for operations targeting the finances and illegal activities of transnational criminal networks and local gangs such as their recruitment of at-risk youth, and the provision of assistance to populations vulnerable to being victims of extortion and crime by criminal networks.

(G) Strengthening special prosecutorial offices and providing technical assistance to combat corruption, money laundering, financial crimes, extortion, and human rights crimes, and conduct asset forfeitures and criminal analysis.

(H) Strengthening the ability of the security sector to respond to and become more resilient in the face of natural disasters, including by carrying out training exercises to ensure critical infrastructure and ports are able to come back online rapidly following disasters and providing preparedness training to police and first responders.

(I) Supporting training for civilian police and appropriate security services in criminal investigations, best practices for citizen security, and the protection of human rights.

(J) Improving community and law enforcement cooperation to improve effectiveness and professionalism of police and increase mutual trust.

(K) Increasing economic opportunities for at-risk youth and vulnerable populations, including workforce development training and remedial education programs for at-risk youth.

(L) Improving juvenile justice sectors through regulatory reforms, separating youth from traditional prison systems, and improving support and services in juvenile detention centers.

(3) To prioritize efforts to combat corruption and include anti-corruption components to programs, including by—

(A) strengthening national justice systems and attorneys general and supporting independent media and investigative reporting;

(B) supporting multilateral anti-corruption mechanisms; and

(C) encouraging cooperative agreements between the Department of State, other relevant Federal departments and agencies, and the attorneys general of relevant countries to fight corruption in the Caribbean.

(4) To promote the rule of law in the Caribbean and counter malign influence from authoritarian regimes, including China and Russia, by:

(A) Monitoring security assistance from authoritarian regimes and taking steps necessary to ensure that this assistance does not undermine or jeopardize U.S. security assistance.

(B) Evaluating and, as appropriate, restricting United States involvement in investment and infrastructure projects fi-

nanced by authoritarian regimes that might obstruct or otherwise impact United States security assistance to beneficiary countries.

(C) Monitoring and restricting equipment and support from high risk vendors for telecommunications infrastructure in beneficiary countries.

(D) Countering disinformation by promoting transparency and accountability from beneficiary countries.

(E) Eliminating corruption linked to investment and infrastructure facilitated by authoritarian regimes through support for investment screening, competitive tendering and bidding processes, the implementation of investment law, and contractual transparency.

(5) To promote strategic engagement with the governments of beneficiary countries through effective branding and messaging of United States assistance and security cooperation, including by developing a public diplomacy strategy for educating citizens of beneficiary countries about United States assistance and security cooperation programs and benefits.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE DISASTER RESILIENCE.

(a) **PRIORITIZATION.**—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, prioritize efforts to increase disaster response and resilience by carrying out programs in beneficiary countries for the following purposes:

(1) Encouraging coordination between beneficiary countries and relevant Federal departments and agencies to provide expertise and information sharing.

(2) Supporting sharing of best practices on disaster resilience including constructing resilient infrastructure and rebuilding after natural disasters.

(3) Improving rapid-response mechanisms and cross-government organizational preparedness for natural disasters.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and in consultation with the President and Chief Economic Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy that incorporates specific, measurable benchmarks to achieve the purposes described in subsection (a) and to inform citizens of beneficiary countries about the extent and benefits of United States assistance to such countries. In developing such strategy, the Secretary of State shall also consult with nongovernmental organizations in beneficiary countries and in the United States.

(c) **ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator, shall annually submit to the appropriate congressional committees a written description of the progress made as of the date of such submission in meeting the benchmarks included in the strategy submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

SEC. 4. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan that includes a timeline and stated objectives for actions to be taken with respect to the Caribbean Basin Security

Initiative. The plan shall also include the following elements:

(1) A multi-year strategy with a timeline, overview of objectives, and anticipated outcomes for the region and for each beneficiary country, with respect to each program area described in section 2.

(2) Specific, measurable benchmarks to track the progress of the Initiative towards accomplishing the outcomes described pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) A plan for the delineation of the roles to be carried out by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and any other Federal department or agency in carrying out the Initiative, to prevent overlap and unintended competition between activities and resources.

(4) A plan to coordinate and track all activities carried out under the Initiative between all relevant Federal departments and agencies, in accordance with the publication requirements described in section 4 of the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-191; 22 U.S.C. 2394c).

(5) The results achieved during the previous year—

(A) of monitoring and evaluation measures to track the progress of the Initiative in accomplishing the benchmarks included pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(B) of the implementation of the strategy and plans described in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4).

(6) A description of the process for co-locating Caribbean Basin Security Initiative projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, to ensure that crime prevention funding and enforcement funding are used in the same localities as necessary.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES.**—The term “beneficiary countries” means the beneficiary countries of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on H.R. 7703.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank Chairman ENGEL for his leadership of

the Foreign Affairs Committee and his role in passing this important bill.

I also want to thank my colleague, Mr. ROONEY, a staunch supporter of the Caribbean, for leading this bill with me, and Ranking Member MCCAUL for his collaboration.

The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative is a vital tool to combat the illicit drug trade, promote good government, and improve civil society. The international narcotics trade has a devastating impact across our hemisphere, and much of the demand for illegal drugs, unfortunately, comes from right here in the U.S.

We have worked hard to stop drug trafficking and combat corruption in Central America and Mexico, but all too often, our allies in the Caribbean are overlooked.

The Caribbean is our third border and, for decades, has been growing as a hub for the illegal and illicit drug trade. Proper investment in the Caribbean will help to improve our allies' capacity to combat transnational crime, violence, and regional instability, while also enhancing our security.

Crime from the drug trade has rattled many of our allies in the region, and this funding will go to programs that interdict traffickers, provide programming for at-risk youth, and improve the independence of the judicial system in those Caribbean countries.

This bill also adds a focus on disaster resilience, given the increasingly frequent and worsening hurricanes in the region, which I believe is of primary importance as we continue to see the impact of climate change on national and regional security.

We have seen the success of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative over the last decade, and this bill will build on the success by authorizing \$74.8 million per year for the next 5 years to further deepen our commitment to that region.

By partnering to increase the security and stability of our Caribbean allies as we combat the narcotics trade, we will also be reducing the flow of illicit drugs into the United States.

I believe CBSI is a crucial program, and I ask my colleagues to join in bolstering it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7703, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act, authored by Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. ROONEY, and I want to thank them for their leadership on this.

The countries of the Caribbean continue to face serious security challenges from criminal organizations, drug trafficking, corruption, and threats to the rule of law that seriously jeopardize the people of these nations as well as U.S. security interests in the region.

Since 2010, the U.S. Congress has provided nearly \$677 million to support the region's efforts to address these threats under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, or CBSI. Funding under CBSI has supported training for law enforcement, counternarcotics efforts, border and port security, and strengthening of the rule of law. The assistance has strengthened U.S. security cooperation with our Caribbean partners and remains critical as transnational criminal and terrorist organizations continue to threaten their security.

The legislation before us today authorizes \$74.8 million for the CBSI for each year until 2025 and continues to prioritize capacity building for local law enforcement, disruption of criminal organizations, drug and firearm interdiction, rule of law, and anticorruption efforts.

The bill also supports disaster resilience and requires the State Department to establish benchmarks and indicators to track progress towards CBSI's stated objectives.

I would also point out this legislation also includes important requirements for monitoring and countering the malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party in the region.

I congratulate the gentleman on his very fine bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague representing the great people of New York, but also who hails from the Caribbean and understands the importance of legislation like this.

As the representative of a Caribbean island, an English-speaking Caribbean island, I am grateful to be yielded the opportunity to talk about this important Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

Traffickers frequently transport cocaine and other contraband from South America through the Caribbean Sea. Building the law enforcement and interdiction capabilities of our Caribbean partners helps them stop illicit flows, making our Caribbean nations safer.

By developing these capabilities, partner countries also can hold perpetrators accountable and deter further criminal activity that might harm their citizens, threaten their economies, and endanger U.S. citizens at home and as tourists in the Caribbean.

The United States has committed over \$556 million for CBSI for fiscal years 2010 to 2018. Congress has appropriated \$58 million for fiscal year 2020.

Bravo.

To enhance maritime domain awareness and interdiction, we have improved radar coverage and sharing capacity, enhanced port security, and provided boats, equipment, and training to partner nations.

In the Dominican Republic, the largest Caribbean transit point for cocaine,

CBSI programs have yielded a 250 percent increase in cocaine interdictions. USAID programming targets the drivers of youth crime and violence to reduce the risk of youth involvement in transnational organized crime.

USAID uses risk assessment tools to identify at-risk youth in countries like St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Guyana. USAID then partners with those host countries, delivering support to families and youth. Across those three countries, 75 percent of the youth targeted have reduced risk levels.

To augment law enforcement, CBSI supports efforts to professionalize and reform law enforcement institutions and enables partner governments to better prevent, investigate, and prosecute crime. These are tremendous tools.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are transshipment points for illicit drugs that have been smuggled from source countries into the U.S. mainland, as well as destination points for drugs distributed within the two territories. This bill is very essential to us.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are situated between the U.S. mainland and drug-source countries such as Colombia and Peru, making them ideal gateways for movement of illicit drugs onward to the U.S. mainland.

The Caribbean sits as a transshipment area for so many goods: first, people, sugar, and, in many instances, drug trafficking now.

Drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups use commercial and private maritime vessels, commercial private aircraft, and package delivery services to smuggle illicit drugs into and through Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Large drug shipments are often offloaded in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, repackaged, and stored in secluded areas until they are distributed locally or transported to the U.S. mainland.

What is the outcome of this? Wreaking havoc in our communities.

There were 52 murders this year on the Virgin Islands, 49.2 per 100,000 people; in 2018, a whopping 52 individuals in a community of 100,000 people. Many of those deaths—most of those deaths—related to drug trafficking, drugs that we do not even use on the islands.

This bill is vital to combating drug trafficking, promoting good governance, independent justice sectors, and empowering civil society in the Caribbean.

Too often, the Caribbean is ignored. We must correct this by deepening our partnerships and cooperation with some of our closest allies. Working together, we can help increase citizen security, build resilience to natural disasters caused by climate change, and improve strategies to reduce illegal narcotics trafficking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HORSFORD). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from the Virgin Islands an additional 1 minute.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I won't need all of that minute, but I want to thank the gentleman for the time.

This bill is so vital, not only to stopping drug trafficking, but supporting our communities, helping youth within the Caribbean to reach their potential.

I want to thank the authors of this bill. I am grateful this is a bipartisan effort to not forget the Caribbean. I thank my colleague, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and the members of the committee.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7703, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THREE SEAS INITIATIVE IN ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIVITY

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 672) expressing support of the Three Seas Initiative in its efforts to increase energy independence and infrastructure connectivity thereby strengthening the United States and European national security, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 672

Whereas, in 2015, 12 Central and European nations of the European Union established the Three Seas Initiative to increase energy, infrastructure, and digital communications autonomy and resilience through support of collective financing for new infrastructure projects to connect the region between the Adriatic, Baltic, and Black Seas;

Whereas the United States pledged support and willingness to serve as a steadfast partner of the Three Seas Initiative's effort at the July 2017 Warsaw summit;

Whereas, in February 2020, the Secretary of State announced a United States commitment of up to \$1,000,000,000 in financing for Three Seas Initiative countries to promote energy security and economic growth;

Whereas the Three Seas Initiative will advance economic growth, resilience, transport and digital connectivity, and energy security in this strategic region, thereby increasing the national security of the United States;

Whereas the President of the European Commission recognized the Three Seas Initiative as a "catalyst for the cohesion and convergence of the EU and for the strengthening of the transatlantic link";

Whereas Soviet-imposed communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe left the region with a significant infrastructure deficit, especially in the realm of north-south transportation and energy lines;

Whereas the current state of infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe nations restricts energy, water, and telecommunications interconnectivity across the region;

Whereas the infrastructure deficit leaves these nations overly dependent on Russia for their energy and additional economic needs;

Whereas Russia seeks to undermine democratic institutions and liberty in Europe through hybrid means, including using energy as a tool for coercion;

Whereas Russian gas pipeline projects, such as Nord Stream II and Turk Stream, are political and seek to undermine Europe's energy security;

Whereas the Three Seas Initiative provides a positive alternative for financing for transport, energy and digital connectivity projects in the Three Seas region to China's 17+1 and Belt and Road Initiatives, which have exported corruption, debt traps, and poor labor and environmental standards;

Whereas diversification of energy sources and supply routes, including development of renewable energy sources and technology, is critical to bolstering energy security;

Whereas members of the Three Seas Initiative have prioritized key energy projects such as the Krk, Croatia LNG terminal, Gas Interconnector Republic of Poland-Republic of Lithuania, the Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria (BRUA) gas interconnector, and other cross-border interconnections;

Whereas members of the Three Seas Initiative have also prioritized key digital infrastructure and transportation projects to support modern and vibrant economies including the Three Seas Initiative Digital Highway, the Viking Train, the Adriatic TEN-T Core Network Corridor, and the FAIRway Danube, among others; and

Whereas the Three Seas Initiative includes vital allies of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the Three Seas Initiative in its efforts to increase energy resilience and infrastructure connectivity across Central and Eastern Europe and to further the process of building a Europe that is undivided, secure, prosperous, and free;

(2) encourages Three Seas Initiative nations to take action on joint financing of projects to strengthen energy, infrastructure, and digital communications projects in Central and Eastern Europe, including through national contributions to the Three Seas Initiative Infrastructure Fund;

(3) reaffirms the authority of the President under the Build Act of 2018 (division F of Public Law 115-254) to provide United States financing to the Three Seas Initiative and its projects in cases that advance national economic or foreign policy interests of the United States and would produce significant developmental outcomes or provide developmental benefits to the poorest population;

(4) reaffirms the authority of the United States International Development Finance Corporation under the European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019 (title XX of division P of Public Law 116-94) to provide support for the Three Seas Initiative and its energy infrastructure projects in countries with upper-middle-income or high-income economies in cases described in paragraph (3) or if such support is necessary to preempt or counter efforts by a strategic competitor of the United States to secure significant political or economic leverage or

acquire national security-sensitive technologies or infrastructure in a country that is an ally or partner of the United States;

(5) encourages the Three Seas Initiative member nations to boost cross-border cooperation and financing on diversification of energy sources, including clean energy sources and infrastructure;

(6) encourages Three Seas Initiative nations to extend this vision of enhanced regional infrastructural connectivity to non-European Union member states in the Three Seas region, including Ukraine, Moldova, and those in the Western Balkans; and

(7) strongly condemns any efforts of Russia to weaponize energy as a means to put pressure on or to undermine liberty and democracy in Europe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD any extraneous material on H. Res. 672.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I would like to thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for her leadership and hard work. This is a strong, bipartisan resolution that seeks to promote and encourage Europe's independence from Russia's coercive energy influence and ensure greater interconnectivity of infrastructure in the region.

Our Eastern European allies and partners know all too well the need to get out from under Russia's stranglehold on the region's energy resources, and this resolution sends an important message that Congress stands with our close friends as they look to build up their own capacity.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 672. I want to thank MARCY KAPTUR for offering it. It is a very important bill to express support for the Three Seas Initiative.

Launched by 12 of our close friends in central and Eastern Europe, the Three Seas Initiative seeks to expand cross-border energy, transportation, and digital infrastructure, as well as to boost economic development in the region.

Though it is a regional initiative, it has global implications that serve not only European but also U.S. security and economic interests.

For far too long, Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin has had an energy chokehold

on much of Europe. In response, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strongly oppose Putin's efforts to weaponize Russia's energy resources, including by working to ensure that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is never completed.

Moreover, we in Congress have expressed growing concern that the CCP is exporting corruption, debt traps, poor labor and environmental standards to Europe and across the world through its 17+1 and Belt and Road Initiatives.

We have also raised the alarm for our EU and NATO allies about the threats that Huawei and the Chinese Communist Party pose as partners.

The Three Seas Initiative seeks to address these concerns. It aims to decrease European dependence on Russian energy by financing new routes for non-Russian energy suppliers and to provide positive alternatives to PRC investments in the region.

We must support our allies in Central and Eastern Europe as they seek, through the Three Seas Initiative, to reduce their dependence on Moscow's and Beijing's economic overtures.

Only together can we face the threats posed by the authoritarian regimes in China and Russia. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is the author of this important resolution.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Chairman ESPAILLAT for the time in support of H. Res. 672, which is a bipartisan resolution, and I appreciate his help in moving it through the subcommittee and committee. This resolution was introduced with our colleague, Congressman ADAM KINZINGER. I want to thank Ranking Member SMITH for his years of dedication on the committee as well.

This resolution expresses robust support for the Three Seas Initiative to accelerate the development of cross-border infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe.

I am also very grateful to the chairman of the full committee, ELIOT ENGEL, who has given the best years of his life to this country and our interests around the world, and to Ranking Member MCCAUL and Congressman KEATING for their commitment to strengthen the Transatlantic Alliance.

I thank again my colleague, Congressman KINZINGER, for his partnership to shepherd this resolution to the floor.

I also extend special thanks to Majority Leader HOYER and his staff associate Daniel Silverberg for their support.

Throughout the Cold War, the United States led efforts to expand liberty in Europe. After the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the United States wel-

comed the people of the region into the community of democratic nations. Yet Soviet tyranny left this strategic region without a significant infrastructure—actually a huge infrastructure deficit—increasing dependence on malign influence from Russia and, yes, China, too.

Tragically, Russia seeks to divide Europe by exploiting Europe's energy dependence, including through the Nord Stream 2 and TurkStream pipelines. Meanwhile, Chinese state-linked companies like Huawei offer predatory financing to capture Europe's telecommunications networks creating surveillance vulnerabilities.

In response, 12 U.S. allies in Central and Eastern Europe launched the Three Seas Initiative and Investment Fund. The initiative provides a critical platform to pool financing to construct infrastructure projects free from malign influence. Currently, the Three Seas fund totals \$1.4 billion. The first investment has been made in the transportation infrastructure sector.

This resolution encourages Three Seas member nations to increase investments into the fund. Further, it strongly urges that the vision of a cross-border cooperation be extended to non-E.U. nations such as Ukraine and Moldova. Importantly, this legislation encourages support for financing of clean energy to counter the scourge of climate change. Following this resolution's introduction, the United States pledged up to \$1 billion to finance energy security projects through the Three Seas Investment Fund.

In conclusion, the transatlantic relationship is the bedrock of U.S. foreign policy. Out of the ashes of two world wars, visionary leaders created institutions like NATO to protect and expand liberty.

The Three Seas Initiative—this time launched and led by our Allies—is the next step to complete the transatlantic project. It will ensure a Europe in this 21st century that is whole, free, and at peace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for her work on this measure and for being an advocate for energy security and the United States-European cooperation on this particular issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support this measure, I urge all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 672, a resolution that reinforces our Eastern European allies in the Three Seas Initiative.

Since the Iron Curtain was lifted in 1991, citizens of Eastern European countries have suffered the economic consequences of poorly kept, soviet-era infrastructure that ensures their reliance on Russia for generations to come.

As we all know, the goal of the Three Seas Initiative is to diversify resources in the region by collectively investing in cross border projects into the EU.

Reclaiming valuable economic leverage will open doors to enhanced energy development and expand access to global markets.

By capitalizing on this partnership, countries of the Three Seas Initiative are better equipped to meet the needs of a 21st century economy.

A more economically prosperous and secure Eastern Europe is in the interest of American foreign policy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Three Seas Initiative and pass H. Res. 672.

I want to thank the sponsor, Congresswoman KAPTUR, Chairman KEATING, and Ranking Member KINZINGER for their leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 672, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING POISONING OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER ALEXEI NAVALNY

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1145) condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1145

Whereas Alexei Navalny is a well-known anticorruption activist and leader of the political opposition in Russia;

Whereas Mr. Navalny garnered 27 percent of the vote in the 2013 Moscow mayoral election;

Whereas since that election, Mr. Navalny and his party have been repeatedly denied the opportunity to compete in elections;

Whereas Mr. Navalny has been imprisoned multiple times for participating in unsanctioned protests;

Whereas Mr. Navalny was attacked twice with a chemical substance in 2017 and potentially poisoned in 2019 while in prison;

Whereas over the years a number of Russian journalists, human rights activists, politicians, whistleblowers, and others have been killed or died under mysterious circumstances, in Russia and overseas, including—

(1) former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko (in London) and investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2006;

(2) human rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov, journalist Anastasia Baburova, whistleblower lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, and human rights activist Natalya Estemirova in 2009; and

(3) opposition politician Boris Nemtsov in 2015;

Whereas, on August 20, 2020, Mr. Navalny fell ill while on a domestic flight in Russia;

Whereas, on August 22, 2020, Mr. Navalny was evacuated by airlift from Omsk, Russia, to Berlin, Germany, for his protection and to ensure he would receive a high standard of health care to improve his chances of recovery;

Whereas German chemical weapons experts conducted tests and found “unequivocal” evidence that Mr. Navalny had been poisoned with a Soviet-era military-grade chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group;

Whereas specialized laboratories in France and Sweden confirmed that Mr. Navalny was poisoned with a nerve agent from the Novichok group;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly denied that Mr. Navalny was poisoned;

Whereas the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has called on the Government of the Russian Federation to open an investigation into Mr. Navalny’s case;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC);

Whereas, in November 2019, after Russian agents used a Novichok-class nerve agent in an attempted assassination of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal in the United Kingdom in March 2018, CWC parties agreed to add the Novichok group of nerve agents to “Schedule 1”, a list of chemicals classified as chemical warfare agents that are subject to declaration requirements and other restrictions;

Whereas, on September 4, 2020, NATO strongly condemned the attack on Mr. Navalny and called on the Russian Federation to cooperate with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on an impartial, international investigation;

Whereas the G7 foreign ministers issued a statement on September 8, 2020, that called on the Government of the Russian Federation “to urgently and fully establish transparency on who is responsible for this abhorrent poisoning attack and, bearing in mind Russia’s commitments under the Chemical Weapons Convention, to bring the perpetrators to justice”;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

Whereas Article 6 of the ICCPR states that “Every human being has the inherent right to life” and “No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life”;

Whereas Article 9 of the ICCPR states that “Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person.”;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas respect for human rights is key to the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security and therefore the OSCE monitors the human rights situation in its 57 participating states;

Whereas pressure on Germany to reconsider its support for the Nord Stream 2 pipeline from the United States and international community, including many European Union countries, as well as from leading politicians within Germany, has grown since the attack on Mr. Navalny;

Whereas Congress passed the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112–208) and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328) in 2016 to provide the United States Government with authorities to respond to grave violations of human rights and corruption in Russia; and

Whereas in response to the Novichok-class nerve agent attack described in this preamble against United Kingdom national and

former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in 2018, the United States Government imposed two rounds of sanctions on Russia pursuant to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–182; 22 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.); Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the apparently purposeful poisoning on August 20, 2020, of Russian anticorruption activist and opposition leader Alexei Navalny;

(2) expresses its appreciation for the prompt and generous efforts of the Cinema for Peace Foundation and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to ensure high-quality health care for Mr. Navalny after he was poisoned by facilitating his transfer by airlift from Russia to Germany;

(3) welcomes reports that Mr. Navalny has emerged from a medically induced coma and is gradually recovering from the poisoning;

(4) hopes for Mr. Navalny’s full and complete recovery so that he may promptly resume his life and work;

(5) urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and multilateral human rights monitoring bodies to monitor the case of the August 2020 poisoning of Alexei Navalny as a probable violation of his fundamental human rights and to respond accordingly;

(6) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to cooperate with independent, impartial, and thorough investigations by competent authorities and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of the reported poisoning of Alexei Navalny;

(7) calls on the United States Government to support international or multilateral efforts to ensure an independent, impartial, and thorough investigations by competent authorities and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of the reported poisoning of Alexei Navalny;

(8) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise the case of the poisoning of Alexei Navalny and underscore the necessity of bringing the organizers and perpetrators to justice;

(9) calls on the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to use their authority under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112–208) and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328) to designate individuals whom they determine upon investigation to have been involved in the poisoning of Alexei Navalny as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, freezing their assets and making them ineligible to receive United States visas; and

(10) supports the 60-day review period triggered by the submission of a letter to the President by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives to investigate whether the poisoning of Alexei Navalny constitutes use of a chemical weapon by the Government of the Russian Federation in contravention of international law, and if so, to impose sanctions pursuant to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–182; 22 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 1145.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I want to thank Mr. MCGOVERN for his leadership and hard work.

In recent years, a number of Russian journalists, human rights activists, politicians, whistleblowers, and others have been killed or died under very mysterious circumstances in Russia and overseas. The poisoning of Alexei Navalny, Russia's most prominent opposition leader, is yet another horrific example of the ruthlessness under President Putin's government.

I am proud to support this bipartisan resolution which condemns the brutal poisoning of Mr. Navalny on August 20, 2020, calls for U.S. support for a credible and impartial international investigation into the attack, and urges sanctions against those responsible. It is important that the House go on record in a bipartisan way to send a clear and unequivocal message to the Kremlin that we reject their criminal tactics and we will demand accountability. There must be consequences for this egregious act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,

*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H. Res. 1145, the "Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response." In order to permit H. Res. 1145 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consideration of H. Res. 1145 in light of the mutually agreed changes to provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services. We are also doing so based on our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H. Res. 1145 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward with regard to any matters in the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation that involves the Committee's jurisdiction and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H. Res. 1145.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
*Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1145, Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1145 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on Financial Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1145, condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously on this bill, I am willing to waive this Committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Oversight and Reform does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective Committees.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
*Committee on Oversight and Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MALONEY: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1145, Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1145 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of House Committee on Oversight and Reform conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, November 10, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. ENGEL: I write concerning H. Res. 1145, Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response. There are certain provisions in this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H. Res. 1145, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agrees to forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that foregoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H. Res. 1145 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. PETER DEFazio,
*Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
ture, House of Representatives, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFazio: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1145, Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader

Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1145 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H. Res. 1145, Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 1145.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1145, Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response, including security and economic components of the relationship. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1145 to expedite floor consideration. I

further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to begin by thanking my good friend, Chairman MCGOVERN, for sponsoring this important resolution. I am very proud to be one of its cosponsors.

Both Mr. MCGOVERN and I co-chair the Lantos Human Rights Commission, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, we have been trying for years to hold Russia to account for these kinds of despicable displays where, as was pointed out by my good friend from New York, very visible opposition leaders and others have been targeted by the Russian regime for poisoning and other kinds of deadly deeds. So I want to thank him for, again, bringing our attention and the House's attention to this additional terrible misdeed by Vladimir Putin.

Each of us in this House, I believe, were appalled to learn that Mr. Navalny had been poisoned with a Soviet-era chemical nerve agent. Of course, we are relieved that he seems to be doing well, but that doesn't in any way mitigate the terrible act that was committed to try to kill him. We are not surprised though. Just 2 years ago, the same chemical nerve agent was used in an attack on United Kingdom soil against former Russian intelligence officer Sergei Skripal. The attack severely injured him, his daughter, and a police officer, and also cost the life of an innocent British citizen.

Moreover, since Putin came to power, as was pointed out a moment ago, numerous Russian journalists, human rights activists, opposition leaders, whistleblowers, and others who opposed his regime have been murdered or died in mysterious circumstances.

As noted in the resolution, Ranking Member MCCAUL and Chairman ENGEL wrote a letter to the President after the attack to request an investigation into whether Russia had, once again, used a lethal chemical weapon in violation of international law.

Pursuant to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act, this request started the clock on a 60-day evaluation period to make such a determination. Unfortunately, the deadline has passed, so we respectfully—all of us—ask the administration to release the findings of its investigation and to do so without any delay.

If it is determined, as we suspect, that the Putin regime is behind the attack, then additional U.S. sanctions must be imposed. His regime must be held accountable for resorting to such cruel and barbaric methods to silence his critics.

I was glad to see the E.U. support a Franco-German plan to impose sanctions on Russians suspected to be behind Mr. Navalny's poisoning. I also continue to hope that our German friends will heed the growing calls around Europe and within Germany since the attack to reconsider their support for the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution. Again, I want to thank Chairman MCGOVERN for authoring it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who is the author of this important resolution and the co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership and for yielding to me. I also want to thank my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for all of his commitment, not only on issues of human rights regarding Russia, but human rights in general.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1145, condemning the poisoning of Russian anti-corruption and opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Since Vladimir Putin took power in 1999, human rights defenders, journalists, and opposition politicians have suffered relentless persecution. Some have been killed, like Anna Politkovskaya, in 2006, and Boris Nemtsov in 2015. Others, like Alexei Navalny, have been targeted but survived. Navalny was attacked twice with a chemical substance in 2017, likely poisoned in 2019 while in prison, and seriously poisoned in August 2020.

I am thankful that Navalny is recovering from the latest attack, but I regret that the Trump administration's response has been so feeble. Secretary Pompeo issued one statement, days late, and after German experts confirmed the poisoning, in which he merely called for an investigation.

Today, with this resolution, Congress is stepping forward to make clear that the United States is appalled by the attack on Alexei Navalny and supports a robust response.

This resolution:

Condemns the poisoning;

Thanks Germany for facilitating Navalny's transfer to ensure high quality medical care;

Welcomes his recovery;

Calls on the OSCE and human rights bodies to treat his case as a human rights violation;

Calls on the U.S. Government to raise Navalny's poisoning with Russian authorities and to support independent, impartial, and thorough investigations by competent authorities;

Calls for the imposition of Magnitsky sanctions on those responsible for the attack;

And supports a review of whether the poisoning constitutes use of a chemical weapon, with sanctions to follow as appropriate.

This resolution does not punish Germany by calling for the suspension of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. Germany is an ally. It is the Russian Government that is at fault here.

So I want to thank all the cosponsors in the Foreign Affairs Committee for supporting this initiative.

I hope and I pray that the incoming Biden administration will make human rights the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy going forward. Brave individuals like Alexei Navalny deserve far more than a passing reference from our government's leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1430

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Congressman MCGOVERN for his hard work on this resolution. I strongly support this measure and urge all the Members to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1145, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROHIBITING RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION IN G7

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8259) to prohibit Russian participation in the G7, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8259

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

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE G7.

(a) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds are authorized to be appropriated to take any action to support or facilitate—

(1) the participation of Russia in a Group of Seven proceeding; or

(2) the reconstitution of the Group of Eight to include Russia.

(b) TERMINATION.—Subsection (a) shall cease to have any force or effect after the date on which—

(1) the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, certify to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the Government of Russia, and all persons acting as an agent of or otherwise on behalf of such government, has halted all interference in United States elections or elections of the other members of the Group of Seven, members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union, and other allies and partners; and

(2) the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the Government of Russia, and all persons acting as an agent of or otherwise on behalf of such government, has—

(A) ended its illegal occupation of Crimea and is fully complying with its commitments under the Minsk agreement with respect to Eastern Ukraine; and

(B) ended its illegal occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and will support efforts for the reintegration of these regions with the Republic of Georgia; and

(C) withdrawn its troops and armaments from Transnistria and fully respects Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on the threats and challenges of Russia to NATO and the United States in Afghanistan and to United States efforts to counter such threats and challenges, including—

(1) an assessment of support provided by the Government of Russia, and all persons acting as an agent of or otherwise on behalf of such government, for Taliban-linked militants, including—

(A) the provision of defense articles, defense services, or technology (as such terms are defined and described in the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.)) or financial assistance for purposes that undermine or run counter to the principles agreed upon in the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan entered into on February 29, 2020;

(B) financial transactions, including transactions made through the hawala system, between the individuals and entities of the Government of Russia, or individuals or entities acting in connection with that government, to Taliban-linked militants, other militants with connections to Afghanistan, and their intermediaries; and

(C) any alleged program to incentivize the killing of United States or NATO coalition soldiers by the Government of Russia or any other foreign government;

(2) a description of United States Government efforts to engage in diplomatic efforts with Russia and the governments of NATO coalition allies and partners to counter Russian malign influence in Afghanistan; and

(3) a description of the views of the governments of other NATO members, including heads of government, political leaders, and military commanders in the region on Russian interference and malign influence in Afghanistan.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees and leadership” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Secu-

rity, and the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous materials on H.R. 8259.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure, and I thank the author, my friend, Mr. MEEKS from New York, a senior member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for his leadership and hard work.

Throughout this Congress, the committee has focused on measures to counter Russian aggression and hold President Putin accountable for the unlawful invasion and attempted annexation of Crimea. But President Trump has flagrantly ignored the pleas of our allies and attempted to invite Russia back into the G7 despite its continued aggression in Ukraine, Georgia, and other sovereign countries near its border.

Putin and his cronies must be held accountable for their actions. And for Trump to put out the welcome mat for Russia would be a slap in the face to our allies and the Ukrainian citizens living in Crimea.

This important bipartisan bill would prevent the U.S. Government from facilitating Russian participation in the G7, or a reconstituted G8, and requires a report about Russia's nefarious relationships with the Taliban in Afghanistan and any bounty program it instituted for the killing of American troops.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8259, which prohibits Russian participation in the G7. I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. MEEKS, for authoring this bill.

As I have said time and time again, Vladimir Putin is not a friend of the United States nor of our allies.

In the past few years, we have witnessed his regime invade and occupy

parts of Ukraine and certainly Georgia in South Ossetia and Abkhazia; unleash devastating cyberattacks against our allies; prop up corrupt regimes in Syria and Venezuela; use a banned nerve agent to try to kill a former Russian spy, as we just saw with the resolution that preceded this, opposition activist Alexey Navalny; meddle in our elections; and much more.

The Russian President's actions speak for themselves. At almost every opportunity, Putin pursues policies that undermine American and allied interests around the world.

The Group of Seven is a forum that brings together like-minded democracies to tackle important global issues. A dangerous and corrupt dictator that assassinates his own people cannot be trusted to be a reasonable partner on the world stage. We must not turn a blind eye to this reality.

This bill would prohibit Russia from being readmitted to the Group of Seven until Putin fully restores the territorial integrity of Ukraine, parts of Georgia, and Moldova, and stops interfering in the democratic processes of the United States and our allies.

The bill also demonstrates that Congress takes very seriously the safety of American troops serving overseas—it is our utmost priority—and that we remain concerned about the challenges Russia poses to U.S. and NATO efforts to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan.

Maintaining the integrity of the Group of Seven is vital to its success. Russia cannot be invited back in while Vladimir Putin continues to undermine the efforts of democratic states to build a freer and more prosperous world.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the author of this important bill and an esteemed member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ESPAILLAT, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). I also thank Representative KINZINGER for his support and his collaboration in working collectively to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

The reason for this bill is actually very simple. Congress must be clear that Russia cannot be part of the G7 while it does all it can to undermine democracies, including our own.

What they are doing is inflaming some of the biggest challenges that face the global community today. Congress has an oversight responsibility here, and this bill simply makes that clear.

Through its actions, today's Russia continues to prove that it does not intend to be a part of the global solution. Moscow interferes in democratic processes across the globe, suppresses and poisons opposition, and wreaks havoc

in emerging nations in Europe—Ukraine and Georgia being the most recent targets where they still remain, holding sovereign land.

The list is long. Yet, I am concerned that the President of the United States has repeatedly expressed his inclination to bring Russia back to the G7. He has called it commonsense to include Russia. It is not as long as they continue to behave the way they are.

It is crucial that the American taxpayer should not pay for this bizarre and harmful courtship of Putin's Russia, the same Russia that puts bounties on American soldiers in Afghanistan.

Of course, we should have lines of strategic communications open with Moscow. I am one also open for dialogue. But with Russia's malfeasance, we cannot welcome them to the table as our partners and allies at a time when they do not share our democratic values or interests.

There is nothing short of the strength of America's stance as a global leader at stake. We have to be leaders in bringing folks together and standing for democracy and for what is good for democracy. That is who we are as Americans. That is what this United States Congress stands for.

We must do our oversight in this regard. We must give a message to Russia that should it want to enter into the G7, it has to play by the rules and not do undemocratic things or threaten democracy, whether it is in the United States or any of our European allies.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank my colleagues for joining this bill in a bipartisan effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has the only remaining time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for yielding, and the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) for proposing this legislation, along with his colleagues, Mr. KINZINGER and all the Members who are supporting H.R. 8259 that deals with the admission of Russia into the G7.

The reason I think this is crucial legislation that I would hope that we would move swiftly to the United States Senate, the other body, and move swiftly for a signature, ultimately, of the President of the United States, is because this is a move that seems afoot with little consultation of the other members of the G7.

Anyone listening to this, the American people, might be reminded that Russia fought against the Nazis. One might say they were on the good side in World War II. There have been moments where we have been able to collaborate with Russia on important issues relevant to all of us, Europe and beyond. But it certainly is dis-

appointing under the leadership of their present head of government that they have seemingly sought not only to quash dissent but to kill dissent.

Just a few minutes ago, we heard of the poisoning of one of the largest dissenters in Russia. It has happened before. It will happen again.

Is the G7 an organization that coddles and comforts those who would poison dissent or undermine dissent? Or are we a group that may not agree all the time but truly believes in human rights and the dignity of all people and, yes, the understanding that dissent is part of the democratic principles? I am appalled at the attempt to kill dissent.

Then, of course, you have to be concerned about the absolute, unfettered intrusion and caring less about the people of Ukraine, Crimea, and certainly places in surrounding Eastern Europe. They are in fear of their lives—the shooting down of an innocent commercial airline and the complete denial of such.

Belarus, the whole question of Moldova, all of these places are subject to the whims of Russia.

Now, if there was a completely different policy, foreign aid, a foreign relations policy of cooperation and collaboration, there is certainly the opportunity for G7 members to talk with Russia in any other forum. But I think when we are supporting NATO, we recognize the importance of that alliance. We also understand the strength of that alliance, recognizing the importance of that alliance in Afghanistan and, yes, in Iraq.

To admit, because of a personal relationship between a head of state and Russia's head of state, I think it is unacceptable.

Let me also say something that is strikingly disturbing at this point. Yes, the President has the right to hire and fire his or her Cabinet. In the last 4 days or so, the then-existing Secretary of Defense was precipitously fired. We don't have the inner workings and decisions of that. Maybe his work performance wasn't up to par. It doesn't seem like that is the case.

Then, all of a sudden, a new person is ultimately an interim Acting Secretary of Defense, one of the most strategic and important parts of our Nation.

Having been here through 9/11, there was a transition of government. Look who struck. Not Russia, of course, but Osama bin Laden on 9/11.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, now we have a circumstance where the newly appointed Acting Secretary of Defense is saying that our troops will be cut in half.

I understand, the Joint Chiefs, if I am correct, have not been consulted or they have not made that decision. And

that means, is that opening the door more for Russia into Afghanistan and Iraq? Is that jeopardizing our troops?

These are questions that tie into relationships between Russia and now, presently, the United States.

I think we have to make a firm statement against the G7, and I ask that we question the decision to withdraw troops, not because I have not been against the wars, but because I believe our troops should be assessed as their security and also our mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of this legislation.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Congressman MEEKS for his hard work on this measure. I am very pleased to support this important measure, and I urge all Members to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8259, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 825) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), recognizing the importance of the NPT's continued contributions to United States and international security, and commemorating United States leadership in strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime since the dawn of the nuclear era, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 825

Whereas on December 4, 1961, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution supporting an international agreement to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

Whereas the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons has been a bedrock principle of United States foreign policy since 1945;

Whereas the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis nearly led the United States and the former Soviet Union to a catastrophic nuclear exchange;

Whereas the aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis led to a series of bilateral and

multilateral agreements to reduce the chances of nuclear war and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons;

Whereas on August 17, 1965, the United States submitted its first draft of such a treaty to the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee;

Whereas in May 1966, the Senate adopted S. Res. 179 supporting the President's efforts to negotiate such a treaty;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on its first day of opening for signature on July 1, 1968;

Whereas the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the NPT on March 13, 1969, by a vote of 83 to 15;

Whereas the NPT entered into force on March 5, 1970, the date it was ratified by the United States and the Soviet Union;

Whereas the NPT provides stability that is critical for United States and international security, and its success has and will continue to depend upon the full implementation by all State Parties of the NPT's three mutually-reinforcing pillars: nonproliferation, access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and disarmament;

Whereas United States leadership has been and will continue to be indispensable to the development and success of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime;

Whereas on May 11, 1995, the NPT was extended indefinitely;

Whereas North Korea is the only non-nuclear weapon state that was a party to the NPT before acquiring nuclear weapons;

Whereas the United States has supported the NPT's disarmament goals by negotiating bilateral arms control agreements and achieving dramatic reductions in its own and other states' nuclear weapons stockpiles through these treaties, including the 1972 SALT I Treaty, the 1987 INF Treaty, the 1991 START I Treaty, the 2002 Moscow Treaty, and the 2010 New START treaty;

Whereas the United States has promoted the NPT's nonproliferation pillar by supporting states that relinquished their nuclear weapons and acceded to the NPT, such as Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and South Africa;

Whereas the United States has worked to ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by supporting the International Atomic Energy Agency and its safeguards programs, including the Additional Protocol;

Whereas the 2018 Department of Defense Nuclear Posture Review affirms, "The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. It plays a positive role in building consensus for non-proliferation and enhances international efforts to impose costs on those that would pursue nuclear weapons outside the Treaty.";

Whereas on June 28, 2018, the United States, United Kingdom, and Russian governments released a joint statement, reaffirming their commitment to work toward "the ultimate goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons, as set forth in the NPT"; and

Whereas Congress has long been a leading voice for nonproliferation, including through the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, the McMahon Act of 1946, the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978, the Export Administration Act of 1979, the Nunn-Lugar Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994, and other legislative efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls for continued support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further reduce the number of nuclear weapons, and to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy as it has over the past 50 years;

(2) reaffirms that a strong nonproliferation regime is in the United States interest;

(3) recognizes that the United States, through its network of alliances, has led the world upholding the pillars of the NPT and continues to work together to strengthen the NPT; and

(4) urges the United States to continue to be a leader in supporting the NPT and the global nonproliferation regime, by—

(A) continuing to encourage all States Party to the NPT to comply fully with the NPT;

(B) maintaining support for the International Atomic Energy Agency through its assessed and voluntary contributions and promote the universal adoption of the IAEA Additional Protocol;

(C) continuing to encourage opportunities for cooperation with other nuclear weapons states to reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons;

(D) encouraging universality of the NPT and the Additional Protocol;

(E) discouraging the unlawful spread of uranium enrichment technologies and ensuring such technologies covered under the NPT are properly verified;

(F) developing policies to prevent withdrawal of additional states parties from the Treaty;

(G) maintaining global moratoria on nuclear explosive testing, which is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(H) working towards a successful 2021 NPT Review Conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 825.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I would like to thank the author, Congressman SHERMAN, for his hard work and leadership.

Arms control and nonproliferation have been bipartisan pillars of United States security since the earliest days of the Cold War. After a half a century of successfully contributing to the nonproliferation and reduction of nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons continues to bolster the United States national security and global stability.

This important resolution recognizes the importance of the NPT and calls for continued U.S. leadership in global

nonproliferation efforts and the further reduction in the number of nuclear weapons. The current administration has undercut and disregarded our important arms control regimes, and I hope that President-elect Biden will immediately change our course after he is sworn in.

With this measure, the House is going on record to support a return to the leadership and policies that helped make the world safer for decades. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution marking the 50th anniversary of entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I want to thank our distinguished colleagues, Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. BANKS, and some of the other cosponsors. Mr. SHERMAN took the lead on it, and I thank him for that, in marking this important anniversary.

For the last 50 years, the NPT Treaty, Non-Proliferation Treaty, has been the bedrock upon which nonproliferation policy has been built. More than 185 countries around the world have ratified the treaty, adding their support to the responsible use of nuclear technology, while reducing the likelihood of nuclear conflict.

Every country has the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; however, we must ensure that the number of states armed with nuclear weapons does not grow. The proliferation of these weapons in unstable, dangerous regimes like North Korea and Iran only makes the world more dangerous and the use of those weapons of mass destruction more likely.

Under the treaty, nuclear weapons states agree not to transfer nuclear weapons or technology to nonnuclear weapons states. States without nuclear weapons are bound to accept IAEA safeguards in order to verify any and all nuclear activities are peaceful.

The treaty also requires all countries to pursue good faith negotiations related to nuclear disarmament. There may be disagreement on how to achieve such disarmament, but in the meantime, the U.S. remains committed to continuing to reduce risk and enhance global stability through maintaining a modern, safe, and secure nuclear deterrent and reaffirming our defense commitment to our allies. We seek to engage countries like China, which is growing its nuclear arsenal, and Russia, which is developing new nuclear armed weapons systems, on enhanced arms control regimes.

Finally, the United States continues to seek to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to rogue states.

Again, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), for sponsoring this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the author of this important resolution and an esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H. Res. 825, which I authored, to focus our attention on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

If you look back to 1945 when nuclear weapons literally exploded upon the world, most political scientists believed that within the next century after 1945 we would have had dozens of nuclear states and many nuclear wars. Well, so far, we have gone the vast bulk of a century since 1945 and we have not seen nuclear weapons used in anger. An important part of that is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

There is no more important work for our committee than preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. That is why, for well over a decade, I have chaired or been ranking member on the subcommittee that focuses on nonproliferation. It is simple math. The more nuclear states, the more likelihood of a nuclear war.

This resolution reaffirms the strong nonproliferation regime that is in the interest of the United States and supports the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It urges the United States to continue to support the NPT regime and global nonproliferation and looks forward to a successful 2021 NPT Review Conference.

I look forward to working with the new administration on nonproliferation issues.

Every nation in the last 50 years that has developed a nuclear weapon has done so under the pretense that they were developing a nuclear energy program. That is why we have to be very careful when we enter into nuclear cooperation agreements with countries that may seek to develop a nuclear weapon.

The best way to make sure that a nuclear energy program is not a nuclear weapons program is to make sure that the country that engages in that signs the additional protocol to allow the additional inspections of the IAEA. That is why what is important today—not only this resolution—is the conference committee that I sit on for the NDAA, which contains the provision that I wrote and introduced to this House as the Saudi Nuclear Nonproliferation Act, to say that we will not enter into agreements for nuclear cooperation with countries that refuse to sign the additional protocol.

As we look forward to a new administration, we need to reenter the JCPOA with Iran and make sure Iran never develops a nuclear weapon. We have to prevent Saudi Arabia from developing a nuclear weapon, and we have to roll back the North Korean program. There is much for us to do in nonproliferation, and there is no work that is more important for our committee.

Since I have some additional time, I would like to use it to express my

views on the other important legislation that the Foreign Affairs Committee is bringing to this House today.

The first is the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020, introduced by Mr. CHABOT, for which I serve as the lead Democrat. This is an important debt-for-nature program critical to preserve tropical forests and coral reefs.

Chairman BERA has introduced the Securing America From Epidemics Act. This bill recognizes the importance of working cooperatively—and I look forward to us rejoining the WHO—working cooperatively to deal with epidemics. And, of course, these provisions were part of the Heroes Act, which this Congress passed back in May. It authorizes the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, an alliance of countries that are partners to finance and coordinate the development of vaccines for high-priority epidemic threats.

I want to commend the gentleman from New York for his Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act to promote safety, security, and the rule of law in the Caribbean. It is so important that we achieve improvement for the lives of those who are our immediate neighbors. This important bill would fund support for the justice sector and education for at-risk youth.

I want to commend Representative TOM SUOZZI for his resolution on the importance of the United States' alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contribution of Korean Americans. Just yesterday, I had a chance to meet with the chair and several of the members of the Korean National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, and I look forward to a new administration reaching a different kind of relationship with North Korea and a stronger relationship with South Korea.

I commend Chairman MCGOVERN for his resolution condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for the United States to coordinate a robust international response.

I think our committee is bringing to the floor of this House a package of important legislation. I look forward to it passing overwhelmingly.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Congressman SHERMAN for his hard work on this measure. I am very pleased to support this measure, I urge all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 825, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution urging the United States to continue

to be a leader in supporting the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the global non-proliferation regime to reap the benefits the NPT and such regime bring to United States and international security.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PARTNERING AND LEVERAGING ASSISTANCE TO STOP TRASH FOR INTERNATIONAL CLEANER SEAS ACT

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4636) to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prioritize and advance efforts to improve waste management systems and prevent and reduce plastic waste and marine debris, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4636

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Partnering and Leveraging Assistance to Stop Trash for International Cleaner Seas Act” or the “PLASTICS Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Eight million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. Marine debris damages the health of marine life, impedes local economic development, and threatens health systems. Ten river systems carry an estimated 90 percent of the river-based plastic waste that ends up in the ocean.

(2) Mismanaged plastic waste has the highest risk of contaminating rivers and oceans. China contributes the largest share of this mismanaged waste, followed by Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa. The United States is the world's second-largest producer and consumer of plastics products, and the top exporter of plastic scrap.

(3) Most marine debris, particularly plastics, enters the oceans from land-based sources, mainly in developing countries, that lack the capacity to adequately manage waste and prevent dumping.

(4) During the Our Ocean Conference in October 2018, the United States announced assistance to prevent marine debris from entering the ocean through development of waste management systems and reduce plastics in marine protected areas in the Indo-Pacific.

(5) During the June 2019 G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, the United States joined other G20 members in endorsing the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 and the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, which outlines a commitment to prevent and reduce plastic debris in the oceans through waste management and clean-up efforts to remove marine plastic debris and prioritizes efforts to advance innovative solutions and international cooperation to support such initiatives.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to consult, partner, and coordinate with the gov-

ernments of foreign countries, international organizations, private and civil society entities, and other stakeholders in a concerted effort to—

(1) prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, including through reduced consumption, greater transparency in global trade of plastic waste, and support for integrated waste management systems in developing countries;

(2) advance innovative market-based solutions and catalyze private capital to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, support integrated waste management systems, and improve market demand for recycled material;

(3) build the capacity of national and subnational governments in other countries to develop and implement integrated waste management systems, measure and report progress in reducing plastic waste, and prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and oceans;

(4) support local economic development through programs that assist community members, particularly women, youth, and marginalized populations, to derive economic benefit from waste products and participation in waste management systems; and

(5) engage in international and regional cooperation to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, share best practices, and empower national and subnational governments, local communities, civil society, and the private sector to engage in such efforts.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that, in pursuing the policy described in section 3, the President should direct United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to advocate support for the following:

(1) Efforts to improve transparency in global trade of plastic waste, improve plastic waste regulation to ensure the safety of humans and the environment, strengthen integrated waste management systems, and prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic waste, to the extent practical.

(2) Collaborative approaches to establish measurable targets and objectives, with related action plans, for reducing marine debris and plastic waste from all sources and sharing best practices in waste prevention and management systems to prevent plastic waste.

SEC. 5. UNITED STATES SUPPORT TO IMPROVE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PREVENT AND REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, are authorized to prioritize and advance ongoing global efforts to—

(1) prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, including through reduced consumption, greater transparency in global trade of plastic waste, and support for integrated waste management systems in developing countries;

(2) advance innovative market-based solutions and catalyze private capital to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, support integrated waste management systems, and improve market demand for recycled material;

(3) build the capacity of national and subnational governments in other countries to develop and implement integrated waste management systems, measure and report progress in reducing plastic waste, and pre-

vent plastic waste from entering rivers and oceans; and

(4) support local economic development through programs that assist community members, particularly women, youth, and marginalized populations, to derive economic benefit from waste products and participation in waste management systems.

(b) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation and in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, are authorized and encouraged to work with entities in the private sector and with nongovernmental organizations to leverage sources of public and private capital to complement the efforts described in subsection (a), including by financing infrastructure investments, supporting capacity-building activities, and entering into cost-sharing, cost-matching, and other cooperative agreements to support and finance such efforts.

(c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including measurable goals, objectives, and benchmarks, to ensure the effective use of United States foreign assistance to achieve the objectives described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a).

(d) DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.—In carrying out the authority under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall seek to provide technical assistance to mobilize the domestic resources of recipient countries in order to increase cost-sharing, self-reliance, and host country ownership of waste prevention and management programs.

(e) COST LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on ongoing programs and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to carry out the authority under subsection (a) that includes a description of—

(1) the monitoring and evaluation plans and indicators used to measure performance of assistance programs, in accordance with subsection (d);

(2) best practices and lessons learned in implementing the efforts authorized under subsection (a);

(3) the extent to which recipient countries have demonstrated a commitment and willingness to cooperate to advance the efforts described in subsection (a) and to dedicate resources to support waste prevention and management initiatives;

(4) the extent to which host country governments and other governments in the region are investing resources to advance initiatives to prevent or reduce marine debris and plastic waste and develop integrated waste management systems; and

(5) the extent to which other funding sources, including through private sector investment, have been identified to advance waste prevention and management initiatives.

(g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 6. PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation is authorized to establish, in coordination with relevant Federal departments and agencies and incorporating any existing programs of the Corporation for such purposes, an initiative to pursue investment opportunities to address plastic waste pollution and support improved, integrated waste management systems in developing countries, including by catalyzing global public and private-sector investments to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste in such countries.

(b) REFERENCE.—The initiative established under subsection (a) may be referred to as the “Plastic Waste Reduction Initiative”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4636.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for his hard work on this measure, which I am pleased to support.

This bill aims to address a growing problem we all see around the world: plastic waste and other debris in our oceans.

Products made from plastic are a part of everyday life. In the morning, we brush our teeth with a plastic toothbrush and wash our hair with shampoo from a plastic bottle. We drink water from a plastic cup, eat snacks out of plastic containers, and consume meals with plastic utensils. We drive cars with plastic components and do our work on plastic keyboards. At the end of the day, when we throw plastic away, we don't often think about where it ends up.

Well, every day, more than 8 million metric tons of it end up in the ocean, leading to a host of problems. It damages the health of marine life, chokes off economic development, and harms the environment.

Most marine debris enters the ocean from land-based sources, mainly in developing countries that aren't able to manage waste and prevent dumping.

This legislation will advance efforts to work with national governments and local communities to develop integrated waste management systems to effectively prevent and reduce plastic waste.

It encourages Federal departments and agencies to work with the private sector and nongovernmental organizations, aiming to leverage public and private capital in concert with American assistance programs.

It supports local economic development initiatives to assist community members—particularly women, young people, and marginalized populations—to realize the economic benefits to be gained in scaling up waste management systems.

It also urges U.S. leadership in international and regional efforts to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste. This legislation supports the commitment that the United States made at both the 2018 Our Ocean Conference and the 2019 G20 Summit to achieve measurable benchmarks in preventing marine debris from entering the ocean and reduce plastic pollution.

The United States is one of the world's largest producer and consumer of plastic products, and the top exporter of plastic scrap. So we have a critical role to play in addressing this particular issue. This legislation puts us on the right track to remedy this rapidly growing problem.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York and Chairman ENGEL for their support.

Mr. Speaker, over 8 million metric tons of plastic enters the oceans each year. That is the equivalent of a garbage truck full of plastic being dumped out every single minute.

According to the United Nations Environment Program, if no change is enacted, our oceans could contain more plastic bags than fish by 2050.

Mismanaged plastic waste in our oceans and communities can take centuries to decompose. That threatens economic development, hurts marine life, and threatens health systems around the world. Reversing the trend of increased plastic waste in our oceans will require a coordinated global response.

It is important to note that just 10 river systems carry an estimated 90 percent of river-based plastic waste to the ocean. China contributes the largest share of this mismanaged waste, followed by developing countries, such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

That is why Chairman ENGEL and I introduced the PLASTICS Act. This legislation elevates the United States to a leadership role in international efforts to reduce and safely manage plastic waste.

The PLASTICS Act will allow America to do more to help build the capacity of developing countries to manage their waste. And it will help prevent more waste from spilling into the ocean on the scale that it is today.

The PLASTICS Act elevates ongoing efforts by USAID, and it prioritizes new partnerships between the private sector and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation. This will allow us to leverage additional financing for companies putting these waste management practices into place in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that yesterday the United States Development Finance Corporation announced its Ocean Plastics Initiative, based on this bill, and it is exactly what this bill calls for. This initiative aims to catalyze \$2.5 billion in the private sector infrastructure investments aimed at reducing plastic waste and marine debris.

By elevating the role of women and marginalized populations in these initiatives, we can spur economic development and opportunity across the globe. Our work to combat plastic waste is an investment in the health of our oceans and our communities, not just for ourselves, but also for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership, and I also rise in enthusiastic support for the PLASTICS Act of Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. ENGEL.

Texas is a Gulf State. Before we even get to the ocean, we can see the impact of plastic even in our area. To hear the stark report that more plastic than fish in 2050, I ask the question: What do we leave for our children?

I think this legislation has a very important and strategic point to combine public and private partnership, to acknowledge the devastation of plastic, and to be able, in essence, to save the Earth.

Mr. Speaker, for a moment, I want to allude also to the nonproliferation legislation that we just discussed and to join in support of the dire conditions and dire straits that the Nation and the world will be in if we allow the proliferation of nuclear abilities.

It is very important that we contain those nuclear abilities. We have been on the floor today discussing Russia and its poisoning of dissidents, its intrusion into its neighbors. And we understand that the reckless use of nuclear materials really pose a danger to our children and our children's children. It is for that reason that I believe that we must continue fighting for nuclear nonproliferation.

As a member of the European Parliamentary Exchange and many other groups discussing this, I believe this is an important and ongoing responsibility, along with the PLASTICS Act, it is intended to make our world safer and better for all. That is a commitment that we, as the Members of the United States Congress, should take extremely seriously, and I think it will be we who will stand in the gap to show

the world what America's true values really are. We care about the environment and we care to keep the world safe from nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the sponsor and the cosponsor of the legislation.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close if the gentleman from New York has no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as my colleagues and I have been speaking on this bill for the last 10 minutes, over 300,000 pounds of plastic has entered our oceans. It is amazing to think about that, just in the 10 minutes we have been speaking here today.

Reversing this trend and preventing plastic from choking our oceans will require this coordinated global response that is both practical, innovative, measurable, and, quite frankly, it is the right thing to do for our future generations.

With the PLASTICS Act, we will be taking a huge large step in that direction. We have a duty to protect future generations from the repercussions of today's waste. I also strongly support ongoing efforts to ensure final passage of Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, which includes components of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their great bipartisan work. I also thank my dear chairman, ELIOT ENGEL, and the gentleman from New York. Chairman ENGEL has been a dear friend of mine in this Congress. We are going to be sad to see him go, but I know he has bright aspirations for his future, and we look forward to celebrating with him. And one way we can celebrate this is by passing the PLASTICS Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the manager and the sponsor of this legislation for their kind courtesies.

Mr. Speaker, it is never too late to say "thank you," and I wanted to just not forget to thank Chairman ENGEL for the years of commitment to these issues and to his service on the Foreign Affairs and the Energy and Commerce Committees.

I know this list of legislative initiatives has had the impact of our manager, the distinguished gentleman from New York, and certainly all of the friends and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. But I think it is appropriate, having known Mr. ENGEL for a very long time, that he is a true believer in democracy, he is a believer in the international responsibilities of the United States, and he is also one who recognizes transition of government in the right way. He is transitioning, and he is doing it with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express to him my deepest respect for his service to not only the United States Congress and his family's sacrifice, but to the United States of America. We thank him for that service. It is my desire to have that in the RECORD at this time. I thank him on behalf of this Nation.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a great example of how America can lead in finding solutions to environmental challenges such as this one, a grave challenge to the world, and helps to create jobs and builds prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support it, and I am grateful that Mr. MCCAUL and all the bill's cosponsors have put this forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4636, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN VALUES AND SECURITY IN INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS ACT

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8405) to direct the Department of State to ensure persons representing the United States in international athletic competitions in certain countries are appropriately informed, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8405

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Values and Security in International Athletics Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2017, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) revised its Host City Contract to require host countries to "protect and respect human rights and ensure any violation of human rights is remedied in a manner consistent with international agreements, laws, and regulations applicable in the Host Country and in a manner consistent with all internationally recognised human rights standards and principles, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, applicable in the Host Country".

(2) The Olympic Charter states the goal of Olympism is "to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity".

(3) The IOC set up an advisory committee on human rights in December 2018, and IOC

President Thomas Bach said, "Promoting humanistic values in sport has been a core feature of the IOC since its beginning. Our mission, to put sport at the service of humanity, goes hand-in-hand with human rights, which is part of our DNA."

(4) In the report, "The Cybersecurity of Olympic Sports: New Opportunities, New Risks", the UC Berkeley Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity listed the "hacking and release of sensitive athletic data" as one of the four significant categories of cyberattacks on major sporting events.

(5) According to the State Department's 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Public Security employs "tens of millions of surveillance cameras" to monitor the general public, as well as "political dissidents, religious leaders and adherents, Tibetans, and Uyghurs".

(6) The People's Republic of China (PRC) Government's extensive use of artificial intelligence surveillance technology, including facial and voice pattern recognition technology, poses grave humanitarian, privacy, and security concerns. PRC authorities have used surveillance technology to monitor, control, and repress an estimated 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. PRC State media has confirmed that "voice, image, position and behavior recognition technologies" will be used in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

SEC. 3. HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS FOR AMERICAN ATHLETIC DELEGATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that individuals representing the United States at international athletic competitions in foreign countries should have the opportunity to be informed about human rights and security concerns in such countries and how best to safeguard their personal security and privacy.

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall devise and implement a strategy for disseminating briefing materials, including information described in subsection (c), to individuals representing the United States at international athletic competitions in a covered country.

(2) TIMING AND FORM OF MATERIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The briefing materials referred to in paragraph (1) shall be offered not later than 180 days prior to the commencement of an international athletic competition in a covered country.

(B) FORM OF DELIVERY.—Briefing materials related to the human rights record of covered countries may be delivered electronically or disseminated in person, as appropriate.

(C) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Information briefing materials related to personal security risks may be offered electronically, in written format, by video teleconference, or prerecorded video.

(3) CONSULTATIONS.—In devising and implementing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with the following:

(A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) Leading human rights nongovernmental organizations and relevant subject-matter experts in determining the content of the briefings required under this subsection.

(C) The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the national governing bodies of amateur sports that play a role in determining which individuals represent the United States in international

athletic competitions, regarding the most appropriate and effective method to disseminate briefing materials.

(c) **CONTENT OF BRIEFINGS.**—The briefing materials required under subsection (b) shall include, with respect to a covered country hosting an international athletic competition in which individuals may represent the United States, the following:

(1) Information on the human rights concerns present in such covered country, as described in the Department of State's Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

(2) Information, as applicable, on risks such individuals may face to their personal and digital privacy and security, and recommended measures to safeguard against certain forms of foreign intelligence targeting, as appropriate.

(d) **COVERED COUNTRY DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "covered country" means, with respect to a country hosting an international athletic competition in which individuals representing the United States may participate, any of the following:

(1) Any Communist country specified in subsection (f) of section 620 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2370(f)).

(2) Any country ranked as a Tier 3 country in the most recent Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

(3) Any other country the Secretary of State determines present serious human rights concerns for the purpose of informing such individuals.

(4) Any country the Secretary of State, in consultation with other cabinet officials as appropriate, determines presents a serious counterintelligence risk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8405.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me commend Mr. MCCAUL, our ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for authoring this bill. We know that people-to-people connections are a great way to build bridges of friendship and understanding between countries, and that international sports have long provided the best example for those connections.

Yet, even as we put serious differences aside to see major sporting events go forward, we cannot ignore the fact that some governments simply don't respect basic human rights, and may seek to violate the privacy of our athletes by collecting information about them without their knowledge or consent.

We think about China hosting the upcoming Winter Olympics. We will be sending our athletes to a country where the government conducts mass

surveillance and abuses the human rights of its own citizens. Our athletes have the right to know about their security concerns, and about how best to keep themselves and their privacy secure.

This legislation will require the State Department to develop a strategy to better support our athletes. We want to make sure that they understand the security and human rights situations in the countries where they compete and can take the best steps to protect themselves. It is a common-sense bill, and I am glad to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his support, and Chairman ENGEL, once again. The 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics were a triumph for the China Communist Party and a significant blow for human rights.

While the CCP aired lavish television spectacles for the world to see, they were evicting people from their homes, arresting activists, and harassing foreign journalists. Now, 12 years later, human rights abuses have only escalated in China.

The CCP is currently oppressing anywhere from 1 to 3 million ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. These prison camps are described as oppressive with harsh labor conditions, brainwashing, and even forced sterilizations and abortions. The Department of Defense has compared them to concentration camps.

At the same time, the CCP continues to crack down on the people of Hong Kong for simply asking for the freedoms they were promised. And we should never forget the role the CCP played in the COVID-19 pandemic. In an attempt to hide the truth from the world and cover up their own culpability in allowing what could have been a regional epidemic, they allowed it to turn into a global pandemic. The CCP destroyed lab samples and threatened and arrested doctors and journalists who were simply just trying to report the truth.

However, even with all this happening, Beijing is still set to host the 2022 Winter Olympics. Unfortunately, the International Olympic Committee has shown their lack of concern for the CCP's escalating human rights violations, whether it be the Uighur Muslims, the Tibetan monks or the Christian population.

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They are even refusing to discuss moving the games and have refused to use the upcoming games to simply put pressure on the CCP to stop their attacks on human rights.

Just like they did in 2008, the CCP will try to use games, including American athletes, to whitewash their history and improve their image.

Today, there is no structure to prepare our athletic delegations for this threat.

That is why Chairman ENGEL and I introduced the American Values and Security in International Athletics Act.

This bipartisan bill would direct the State Department to establish a briefing program on human rights violations and personal privacy concerns American athletes will face in countries that denigrate human rights, like China.

So when we send our American athletes to represent us in authoritarian countries that flagrantly abuse human rights, those athletes deserve to know exactly what is happening. Then they can make an informed decision about their own participation, particularly as we prepare for the 2022 games.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 40th anniversary of the United States boycott on the Moscow Olympics.

At that time, in support of President Carter's boycott against the Soviet Union, famous sports journalist Howard Cosell said:

It seemed absolutely wrong to me to let the Soviet Union use our athletes and our technology capabilities to broadcast their perverse propaganda to every corner of the globe.

I agree with Howard Cosell.

Mr. Speaker, we need to come together again to raise awareness for the next winter Olympics in China.

Silence is not an option. And this bipartisan bill is an important step to ensure the United States Olympians, many of whom are icons and adored by our children as role models, to make sure that they are educated about where they are competing when they go abroad to China.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Mr. MCCAUL for his bipartisan leadership on this matter. I urge a "yes" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, hosting the Olympics is an honor that indicates the host country's legitimacy on the world stage, but unfortunately, this honor has been handed to governments who misuse it time and again.

We cannot let the Olympic games become a tool for corrupt and malign governments to conceal their behavior and portray themselves in a positive light. We know that the CCP will use international participation in the Olympics to normalize its atrocities. They have done it once before.

At the very least, we should ensure that American athletes have the opportunity to at least be informed and to protect themselves and their personal privacy.

We have all traveled, as Members of Congress, across the globe to oppressive governments. Many of us have been under surveillance in hostile governments like Russia and China and other countries. This bill simply allows

for our athletes to have the same courtesy, to be briefed in advance about the threats that they may face while they are in the host country at the Olympics in China.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for his support; Chairman ENGEL, my dear friend, for cosponsoring the bill, along with Representatives SHERMAN, SPANBERGER, and PHILLIPS.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8405.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SOVEREIGNTY ACT OF 2020

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8438) to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8438

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 2 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds the following:

“(1) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to engage in a pattern of clear and persistent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

“(2) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to engage in a pattern of clear and uncorrected violations of basic principles of democratic governance, including through a series of fundamentally flawed presidential and parliamentary elections undermining the legitimacy of executive and legislative authority in that country.

“(3) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to subject thousands of pro-democracy political activists and peaceful protesters to harassment, beatings, and imprisonment, particularly as a result of their attempts to peacefully exercise their right to freedom of assembly and association.

“(4) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to suppress independent media and journalists and to restrict access to the internet, including social media and other digital communica-

tion platforms, in violation of the right to freedom of speech and expression of those dissenting from the dictatorship of Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

“(5) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues a systematic campaign of harassment, repression, and closure of nongovernmental organizations, including independent trade unions and entrepreneurs, creating a climate of fear that inhibits the development of civil society and social solidarity.

“(6) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, has pursued a policy undermining the country’s sovereignty and independence by making Belarus political, economic, cultural, and societal interests subservient to those of Russia.

“(7) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to reduce the independence of Belarus through integration into a so-called ‘Union State’ that is under the control of Russia.

“(8) On August 9, 2020, the Government of Belarus conducted a presidential election that was fraudulent and did not meet international standards. There were serious irregularities with ballot counting and the reporting of election results. The Government of Belarus also put in place restrictive measures that impeded the work of local independent observers and did not provide sufficient notice to the OSCE to allow for the OSCE to monitor the elections, as is customary.

“(9) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the Government of Belarus responded to the peaceful opposition protests, which are the largest in Belarus history, with a violent crackdown, including, according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur, the detention of more than 10,000 peaceful protesters as of September 18, 2020.

“(10) Thousands of employees at Belarusian state-owned enterprises, who have been seen as Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s traditional base during his 26-year rule, went on strike across the country to protest Lukashenka’s illegitimate election and the subsequent crackdowns, including at some of Belarus’s largest factories such as the BelAZ truck plant, the Minsk Tractor Works, and the Minsk Automobile Plant.

“(11) Women have served as the leading force in demonstrations across the country, protesting the police brutality and mass detentions by wearing white, carrying flowers, forming ‘solidarity chains’, and unmasking undercover police trying to arrest demonstrators.

“(12) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the Government of Belarus has sought to stop the work of the Coordination Council, which was formed by the leading opposition presidential candidate, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, to facilitate a peaceful transition of power by subjecting the Council’s senior members to violence, detention, and forced exile.

“(13) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the Government of Belarus restricted the free flow of information to silence the opposition and to conceal the regime’s violent crackdown on peaceful protesters, including by stripping the accreditation of journalists from major foreign news outlets, disrupting internet access, limiting access to social media and other digital communication platforms, and detaining and harassing countless journalists.

“(14) Before the European Parliament on August 25, 2020, Tsikhanouskaya stressed that a ‘peaceful revolution’ was underway in Belarus, and that ‘It is neither a pro-Russian nor anti-Russian revolution. It is neither an anti-European Union nor a pro-European

Union revolution. It is a democratic revolution.’.

“(15) Against the will of the majority of the Belarusian people, Russian President Vladimir Putin has propped up the Alyaksandr Lukashenka regime, including by offering security assistance, providing significant financial support, and sending Russian propagandists to help disseminate pro-regime propaganda on Belarus state television.

“(16) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada condemned the violent crackdown on peaceful protesters, refused to accept the results of the fraudulent election and called for new free and fair elections under independent observation.

“(17) On September 8, 2020, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo said, ‘The United States, in coordination with our partners and Allies, is considering additional targeted sanctions to promote accountability for those involved in human rights abuses and repression in Belarus.’.

“(18) Following Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s September 23, 2020, secret inauguration, the United States, the European Union, numerous European Union member states, the United Kingdom, and Canada announced they did not recognize him as the legitimately elected leader of Belarus.”.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Section 3 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

“It is the policy of the United States to—

“(1) condemn the conduct of the August 9, 2020, presidential election and crackdown on opposition candidates, senior members of the Coordination Council, peaceful protesters, employees from state-owned enterprises participating in strikes, independent election observers, and independent journalists and bloggers;

“(2) continue to call for the immediate release without preconditions of all political prisoners in Belarus, including all those individuals detained in connection with the August 9, 2020, presidential election, a leading opposition figure Maryia Kalesnikava, and United States citizen Vitali Shklyarov;

“(3) continue to support the aspirations of the people of Belarus for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

“(4) continue to support the aspirations of the people of Belarus to exercise their religion freely, including the head of the Catholic Church in Belarus Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz who was barred from entering the country after criticizing Belarusian authorities;

“(5) continue to support actively the aspirations of the people of the Republic of Belarus to preserve the independence and sovereignty of their country;

“(6) not to recognize any incorporation of Belarus into a ‘Union State’ with Russia, as this so-called ‘Union State’ would be both an attempt to absorb Belarus and a step to reconstituting the totalitarian Soviet Union;

“(7) continue to reject the results of the fraudulent August 9, 2020, presidential election in Belarus, and to support calls for new presidential and parliamentary elections, conducted in a manner that is free and fair according to OSCE standards and under the supervision of OSCE observers and independent domestic observers;

“(8) refuse to recognize Alyaksandr Lukashenka as the legitimately elected leader of Belarus;

“(9) continue to call for the fulfillment by the Government of Belarus of Belarus’s freely undertaken obligations as an OSCE participating state and as a signatory of the Charter of the United Nations;

“(10) support an OSCE role in mediating a dialogue within Belarus between the government and genuine representatives of Belarusian society;

“(11) recognize the Coordination Council as a legitimate institution to participate in a dialogue on a peaceful transition of power;

“(12) urge an expanded United States diplomatic presence in Belarus to advocate for the aspirations of the people of Belarus for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

“(13) continue to work closely with the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other countries and international organizations, to promote the principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Belarus; and

“(14) remain open to reevaluating United States policy toward Belarus as warranted by demonstrable progress made by the Government of Belarus consistent with the aims of this Act as stated in this section.”

SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND SOVEREIGNTY IN BELARUS.

Section 4 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading to read as follows: “**ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND SOVEREIGNTY IN BELARUS.**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “European” and inserting “Trans-Atlantic”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and 4, respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) To assist the people of Belarus in building the sovereignty and independence of their country.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “and Belarusian groups outside of Belarus” after “indigenous Belarusian groups”; and

(B) by inserting “and Belarusian sovereignty” before the period at the end;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (8);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) countering internet censorship and repressive surveillance technology that seek to limit free association, control access to information, and prevent citizens from exercising their rights to free speech.”;

(D) in paragraph (8) (as redesignated), by striking “and” at the end; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) supporting the work of women advocating freedom, human rights, and human progress;

“(10) supporting the development of Belarusian language education;

“(11) enhancing the development of the private sector, particularly the information technology sector, and its role in the economy of Belarus, including by increasing the capacity of private sector actors, developing business support organizations, offering entrepreneurship training, and expanding access to finance for small and medium enterprises;

“(12) supporting political refugees in neighboring European countries fleeing the crackdown in Belarus;

“(13) supporting the gathering of evidence on and investigating of the human rights abuses in Belarus;

“(14) supporting the public health response, including filling the information void, in Belarus during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

“(15) other activities consistent with the purposes of this Act.”;

(5) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (g);

(6) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that, in light of the political crisis in Belarus and the unprecedented mobilization of the Belarusian people, United States foreign assistance to Belarusian civil society should be reevaluated and increased to carry out the purposes described in subsection (a) and to include the activities described in subsection (c).

“(e) **COORDINATION WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS.**—In order to maximize impact, eliminate duplication, and further the achievement of the purposes described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall ensure coordination with the European Union and its institutions, the governments of countries that are members of the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

“(f) **REPORT ON ASSISTANCE.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, the Secretary of State, acting through the Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, and in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the programs and activities carried out to achieve the purposes described in subsection (a), including an assessment of whether or not progress was made in achieving those purposes.”; and

(7) in subsection (g) (as redesignated)—

(A) by striking “**AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**” and all that follows through “There are” and inserting “**AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are”;

(B) by striking “fiscal years 2007 and 2008” and inserting “fiscal years 2021 and 2022”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (2).

SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, INTERNET FREEDOM, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN BELARUS.

Section 5 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, INTERNET FREEDOM, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN BELARUS.

“(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the President should support and reallocate resources to radio, television, and internet broadcasting in languages spoken in Belarus by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to the people of Belarus;

“(2) the United States should also support other independent media providing objective information to the Belarusian people, particularly in the Belarusian language;

“(3) the President should provide the United States Agency for Global Media with a surge capacity (as such term is defined in section 316 of the United States International Broadcasting Act (22 U.S.C. 6216)) for programs and activities in Belarus;

“(4) the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media, working through the Open Technology Fund and in coordination with the Secretary of State, should expand and prioritize efforts to provide anti-censorship technology and services to journalists and civil society in Belarus in order to enhance their ability to safely access or share digital news and information without fear of repercussions or surveillance; and

“(5) the United States should continue to condemn the Belarusian authorities’ crackdown on independent media, including the harassment and mass detentions of independent and foreign journalists and the denial of accreditation.

“(b) **STRATEGY TO PROMOTE EXPANDED BROADCASTING, INTERNET FREEDOM, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN BELARUS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy, including a cost estimate, to carry out the following:

“(A) Expand independent radio, television, live stream, and social network broadcasting and communications in Belarus to provide news and information, particularly in the Belarusian language, that is credible, comprehensive, and accurate.

“(B) Support the development and use of anti-censorship and circumvention technologies by the Open Technology Fund and the Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor that enable the citizens of Belarus to communicate securely and undertake internet activities without interference from the Government of Belarus.

“(C) Assist efforts to overcome attempts by the Government of Belarus to disrupt internet access and block content online.

“(D) Monitor the cooperation of the Government of Belarus with any foreign government or organization for purposes related to the censorship or surveillance of the internet, including an assessment of any such cooperation in the preceding ten years.

“(E) Monitor the purchase or receipt by the Government of Belarus of any technology or training from any foreign government or organization for purposes related to the censorship or surveillance of the internet, including an assessment of any such purchase or receipt in the preceding ten years.

“(F) Assist with the protection of journalists who have been targeted for free speech activities, including through the denial of accreditation.

“(G) Provide cyber-attack mitigation services to civil society organizations in Belarus.

“(H) Provide resources for educational materials and training on digital literacy, bypassing internet censorship, digital safety, and investigative and analytical journalism for independent journalists working in Belarus.

“(I) Build the capacity of civil society, media, and other nongovernmental and organizations to identify, track, and counter disinformation, including from proxies of the Government of Russia working at Belarusian state television.

“(2) **FORM.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be transmitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.”

SEC. 6. SANCTIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS.

Section 6 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “December 19, 2010” each place it appears and inserting “August 9, 2020”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, peaceful protesters,” after “all opposition activists”; and

(C) by striking paragraphs (3) and (6) and redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (7) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND RUSSIAN INDIVIDUALS COMPLICIT IN THE CRACKDOWN THAT OCCURRED AFTER THE AUGUST 9, 2020, ELECTION” after “BELARUS”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) is a member of the Central Election Commission of Belarus or assisted the Commission in manipulating the presidential election of August 9, 2020;”;

(D) in paragraph (5) (as redesignated) to read as follows:

“(5) is a member of any branch of the security or law enforcement services of Belarus, including the KGB, Interior Ministry, and OMON special police unit, and is responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or otherwise directing, the crackdown on opposition leaders, journalists, and peaceful protestors that occurred in connection with the presidential election of August 9, 2020; or”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) is a government official, including at the Information Ministry, responsible for the crackdown on independent media, including revoking the accreditation of journalists, disrupting internet access, and restricting online content;

“(8) is an official in the so-called ‘Union State’ between Russia and Belarus (regardless of nationality of the individual); or

“(9) is a Russian individual that has significantly participated in the crackdown on independent press or human rights abuses related to political repression in Belarus, including the Russian propagandists sent to replace local employees at Belarusian state media outlets.”;

(3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “the Overseas Private Investment Corporation” and inserting “the United States International Development Finance Corporation”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “(including any technical assistance or grant) of any kind”; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “or by any member or family member closely linked to any member of the senior leadership of the Government of Belarus” and inserting “or by the senior leadership of the Government of Belarus or by any member or family member closely linked to the senior leadership of the Government of Belarus, or an official of the so-called ‘Union State’ with Russia”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end before the semicolon the following: “, or an official of the so-called ‘Union State’ with Russia”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, or the so-called ‘Union State’ with Russia,” after “the Government of Belarus”.

SEC. 7. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.

Section 7 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.

“It is the sense of Congress that the President should continue to coordinate with the European Union and its institutions, European Union member states, the United Kingdom, and Canada to develop a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to—

“(1) further the purposes of this Act, including, as appropriate, encouraging other countries to take measures with respect to the Republic of Belarus that are similar to measures described in this Act; and

“(2) deter the Government of Russia from undermining democratic processes and insti-

tutions in Belarus or threatening the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Belarus.”.

SEC. 8. REPORTS.

Section 8 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. REPORTS.

“(a) REPORT ON THREAT TO SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF BELARUS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the threat the Government of Russia poses to the sovereignty and independence of Belarus.

“(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) An assessment of how the Government of Russia is exploiting the current political crisis in Belarus to push for deeper political and economic control of or integration with Belarus.

“(B) A description of the economic and energy assets in Belarus that the Government of Russia, including Russian state-owned or state-controlled companies, controls.

“(C) A description of Belarus major enterprises that are vulnerable of being taken over by Russian entities amid the country’s worsening financial crisis.

“(D) A description of how and to what ends the Government of Russia seeks to augment its military presence in Belarus.

“(E) A description of Russian influence over the media and information space in Belarus and how the Government of Russia uses disinformation and other malign techniques to undermine Belarusian history, culture, and language.

“(F) A description of other actors in Belarus that the Government of Russia uses to advance its malign influence, including veterans’ organizations and extrajudicial networks.

“(G) A description of efforts to undermine Belarusian language, cultural, and national symbols, including the traditional red and white flag and the ‘Pahonia’ mounted knight.

“(H) An identification of Russian individuals and government agencies that are significantly supporting or involved in the crackdown on peaceful protestors and the opposition or the repression of independent media following the August 9, 2020, presidential election.

“(3) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be transmitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(b) REPORT ON PERSONAL ASSETS OF ALYAKSANDR LUKASHENKA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

“(A) the total assets under the direct or indirect control of Alyaksandr Lukashenka, including estimated assets and known sources of income of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and his immediate family members, including assets, investments, bank accounts, and other business interests; and

“(B) an identification of the most significant senior foreign political figures in Belarus, as determined by their closeness to Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

“(2) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be transmitted in unclassified

form but may contain a classified annex.”.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

Section 9 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting “members of the security and intelligence services,” after “prosecutors.”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, electoral fraud, online censorship, or restrictions on independent media and journalists” after “public corruption”.

SEC. 10. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8438.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge my friend, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for his hard work on this bill, along with our other colleagues who helped move this measure forward, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. KEATING.

In Belarus, Lukashenko’s illegitimate regime continues his brutal crackdown on the peaceful protesters of that country that have taken to the streets in historic numbers to protest the elections he stole back on August 9, 2020. It was the right thing to do when the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the EU worked together to impose sanctions of those responsible. But the people of Belarus still need our help.

This bipartisan bill makes clear that Congress will stand with the Belarusian people and against their oppressors, and that they will support

their long-term goals of building a freer, more democratic, and more western-facing Belarus. To support the citizens of that country, this bill authorizes assistance to promote democracy, human rights, and civil society. It also calls on the administration to ramp up our assistance efforts.

And for those trying to stifle the democratic aspiration of the Belarusian people, this bill imposes stiff new consequences. It expands the list of Belarusian authorities and complicit Russian officials who may be targeted by U.S. sanctions.

This bill is more than just words of support. It would make a real difference for the people of Belarus as they strive to build a better future for themselves and their country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WATERS: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 8438, to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 8438 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on Financial Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 8438 the "Belarus Democracy, Human Rights and Sovereignty Act of 2020." In order to permit H.R. 8438 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consideration of H.R. 8438 in light of the mutually agreed changes to provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services. We are also doing so based on our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H.R. 8438 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be

appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward with regard to any matters in the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation that involves the Committee's jurisdiction and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 8438.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 8438, to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 8438 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 8438, the "Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 8438, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have

worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8438, the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act.

I greatly appreciate Representative CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for championing this bill. He is so well known as a visionary for freedom around the world. I am also proud to join him along with my dear friend, Chairman ELIOT ENGEL, who has been such a valued champion of democracy and with whom I had the rare opportunity to visit Pyongyang in North Korea. Joining us are Representatives KAPTUR, KINZINGER, and KEATING as original cosponsors of this important bipartisan piece of legislation.

There is no question that Alexander Lukashenko rigged the presidential election in Belarus this past August.

Since then, despite the terror inflicted upon them by the Lukashenko regime, the Belarusian people have continued to peacefully protest in historic numbers. And their calls for new free and fair elections are only getting louder. Their courage is truly inspiring.

The Belarusian people know that a legitimate leader does not need to use violence, arbitrary detention, or torture to cling to power.

They know that a legitimate leader does not need to curtail freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly to silent dissenting views.

And they know that a legitimate leader does not need to block independent media, disrupt internet access, and expel and detain countless journalists to conceal the true scale of opposition to his rule.

It is far past time Lukashenko comes to understand this as well.

This bill reaffirms that it is the U.S. policy to refuse to recognize Lukashenko as the legitimate leader of Belarus. It also aims to assist the Belarusian people in regaining their freedom and restoring the country's institutions of democratic governments.

Moreover, we know that Vladimir Putin fears democratic movements rising up against fellow dictators in his backyard. Any Russian move to undermine the will of the Belarusian people or the country's independence must be met with severe consequences.

That is why this legislation provides the President with the necessary tools to hold accountable not only the Belarusian authorities responsible for the violent crackdown but also their Russian backers.

This bill will create the necessary conditions to allow the Belarusian people to chart their own future. As such, I urge all Members to join me in supporting its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the very courageous sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding. I thank Mr. WILSON for his great work, and I want to thank my distinguished colleagues on both sides of the aisle, ELIOT ENGEL and MICHAEL MCCAUL. Thank you for your support in helping to get this legislation to the floor. I thank Chairman KEATING, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift enactment into law of this bipartisan bill called the Belarus Democracy Human Rights and Sovereignty Act of 2020, which I have introduced.

And here is why this legislation is absolutely needed right now; not next year, not when we come back, hopefully the Senate will take it up if it passes today, and I think it will, but we need this right now.

Many of my colleagues know, and perhaps they know it well, that Belarus was perhaps the nation most mired in the Soviet past, with an inefficient economy and a strongman autocrat, really a dictator, in charge for over two and a half decades, Alexander Lukashenko. Yet the indomitable spirit of freedom stirred among the people of Belarus, and when a patently false election—another one—was announced on August 9 declaring Lukashenko the winner, the people took to the streets. And they are still on the streets today.

The OSCE Moscow Mechanism reported November 5 that there is “‘overwhelming’ evidence that Belarus’ August 9 presidential election results were falsified and as ‘systematic’ human rights violations have been committed by the country’s security forces in response to the peaceful demonstrations that the vote sparked.”

Now, reports out of Belarus indicate that police are using increasingly violent tactics against these peaceful protesters.

The BBC summed it up yesterday in an article titled, “Belarus protesters battered, bruised, but defiant after 100 days,” which said in part, “opposition protesters remain defiant in Belarus despite police brutality, 100 days after they first took to the streets to denounce the reelection of President Alexander Lukashenko. Police in helmets and body armour throw women holding flowers and balloons into police vans.”

And, of course, then it only gets worse. “Officers tear-gas elderly people on a pensioners’ march. . . .

“Yet every Sunday thousands still pour into the streets of the capital Minsk, condemning what they see as Mr. Lukashenko’s fraudulent 9 August victory. . . .”

There is a report that points out, again a BBC report, “Alesya, a 31-year-old worker in the IT industry, regu-

larly attends the Sunday rallies. On 15 November, however, things turned nasty very quickly.

“When she arrived at the square,” she said, “where the march was supposed to start, it was already packed with security forces. As more people gathered, officers fired stun grenades and started hitting people with batons to disperse the crowd.

“They attacked us again and again. It was awful. They ferociously beat people, twisted their arms and took them away.

“She ran away into one of the courtyards following other protesters, but police in their minivans quickly caught up with them even there. She was saved,” she goes on, “by a stranger who hid her and several others in his house.”

□ 1530

She goes on to say, “It was like World War II, when people tried to hide Jews from the Nazis. It was terrifying, we were shocked.”

That particular march was called in memory of Roman Bondarenko, an activist who was so severely beaten while in detention, that he died in the hospital just last week.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress can and we must do our part in this crisis. The people of Belarus, especially the pro-democracy leaders, desperately need our help, and they need it right now.

As my colleagues know, the leading opposition presidential candidate, Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, almost certainly won the election in August. She went on to form the Coordination Council.

The democratic opposition is united, it is smart, it is principled, tenacious, and it is extraordinarily brave.

Ms. Tsikhanouskaya ran a courageous campaign, but today is in exile in Lithuania, in Vilnius, where she continues to rally the Belarusian people and the world and demand that democracy and human rights for all people be given to her nation.

A couple weeks ago I read portions of a transcript of a hearing I chaired in 2011 after another fraudulent Belarusian election put Lukashenko back in power. Then as now, and on so many other occasions, Lukashenko’s bullies beat, jailed, assaulted, tortured, raped, and killed peaceful protesters, but now it is going on right as we meet here today as never before.

The big mistake of the past, fatigue or lack of commitment and perseverance by the international community, can’t be repeated this time. We can’t be outraged at first and then turn the page and say, “Now what?”

We need to have a determined effort to help these people who are struggling for democracy and human rights in their nation.

On two separate occasions, I would note parenthetically, I met with Lukashenko in Minsk and came away resolved to accelerate the struggle for democracy and freedom.

I was with a group of 11 Members, including some of our members on the committee, and he pointed to me, because I am the author of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004, and said, “There is public enemy number one.”

That is how he thinks. Anybody who aspires for freedom and democracy, particularly against his brutal regime, is construed to be a public enemy. And for the people of Belarus, they go to jail, where they are beaten senselessly.

Our bipartisan bill, H.R. 8438, again, cosponsored by Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KINZINGER, and so many other Members of this House, updates, strengthens, and expands the Belarus Democracy Acts of 2004, 2006, and 2011, laws that I also authored, and renews the personal, economic, and visa sanctions on an expanded list of actors in the Belarusian Government, and now for the first time on Russian individuals complicit in this crackdown.

I would note parenthetically, the Magnitsky Act, the idea of personally sanctioning with visa denial as well as economic sanctions on individuals that led to the Global Magnitsky Act came out of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004.

So it is an idea, it is a method of holding those who commit these abuses personally accountable.

When you sanction an entire nation, that has an impact, but innocent people do get hurt. This sanctions the individuals who are perpetrators of these heinous crimes.

Yesterday, Svetlana again called for the sanctions, just yesterday for the sanctions that are embedded in our bill. So the time to act is now.

The bill also has other provisions. It does call for new elections.

It recognizes the Coordination Council as a legitimate institution to participate in a dialogue on a peaceful transition of power. They are the ones we need to be talking to.

It calls for the release of all political prisoners, and that number rises by the day.

It supports the aspirations of the people to exercise their religious freedom. There has been a crackdown there as well.

It authorizes assistance to promote democracy in civil society in Belarus. On occasions in Minsk, I have met with those individuals. They are brave beyond words, because they always know somebody is lurking—the secret police—just waiting to haul them off to prison.

It unequivocally states that it is the policy of the U.S. “not to recognize any incorporation of Belarus into a ‘Union State’ with Russia.” Russia is using this crisis as a pretext to further manifest their monopoly of power. They would love—like they did in parts of Ukraine, South Ossetia, Abkhazia—to just take the whole of Belarus into their national boundary.

The bill requires the U.S. strategy to promote broadcasting, internet freedom, and access to information.

In addition, it gives much needed support to the Belarusian media and to the IT sector.

By passing this bill today followed by, hopefully, swift approval in the Senate and signature into law by the President, we not only reiterate, but significantly expand our support and solidarity with the great people of Belarus. We need to pass this bill and I respectfully call on our Senate colleagues to pass it as well.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, again, there being no further speakers, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for over 3 months, we have watched, being inspired, as the Belarusian people have peacefully demanded that their voices be heard and that new, free, and fair elections be held.

As we have seen, women dressed in white and carrying flowers have formed miles-long solidarity chains to protest police violence. Employees at state-run companies have gone on strike, despite the threat of losing their jobs. University students have risked expulsion to join the protests. State TV anchors have walked off the set, no longer able to support the regime's propaganda campaign. Thousands of courageous pensioners have marched in opposition to the Belarusian dictator.

Today, led by the very talented and visionary Congressman CHRIS SMITH, we must stand and send a strong message to these brave men and women that they are not alone and that the American people stand with them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, again, let me thank Mr. SMITH and other colleagues who have worked so hard on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8438, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UKRAINE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5408) to oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5408

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Russia invaded the Crimea region of Ukraine in February 2014, continues to occupy and control that region, and has exercised control over part of the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine since April 2014 through non-state armed groups and illegal entities it has established, instigated, commanded, and supported, including with military and intelligence personnel on the ground from Russia.

(2) International humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, to which Russia is a signatory, requires Russia to respect and protect the religious freedom of the inhabitants of the territory it occupies or controls, including through organized non-state armed groups and illegal entities it commands and supports, and holds Russia responsible for violations of religious freedom in this territory.

(3) According to the Department of State's International Religious Freedom Reports, and other reporting, violations of religious freedom in the Crimea region of Ukraine since Russia invaded and occupied the territory have included abduction, detention and imprisonment, torture, forced psychiatric hospitalizations, fines, restrictions on missionary activities, confiscations of property, including churches and meeting halls, expulsions and obstructions to reentry, denying registration of religious groups, vandalism, fines, and banning peaceful religious groups, and targeted groups have included Muslim Crimean Tatars, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formerly the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Protestant Christians, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

(4) According to the Department of State's International Religious Freedom Reports, violations of religious freedom in the part of the Donbas region of Ukraine controlled by armed groups commanded by Russia have included detention and imprisonment, torture, confiscation of property, including churches and meeting halls, physical assaults and threats of violence, vandalism, fines, restrictions on missionary activities, religious services, ceremonies, gatherings, and literature, and banning of peaceful religious groups, and targeted groups have included the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formerly the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Protestant Christians, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

(5) The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, requires the President to—

(A) designate a foreign country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom when its government has engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom in that country over the previous 12 months;

(B) take one or more of the actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445(a)), or commensurate actions in substitution, not later than 90 days, or 180 days in case of a delay under paragraph (3), after the date of the designation of a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and

(C) designate a foreign country on a "Special Watch List" when its government has engaged in or tolerated severe violations of religious freedom in that country over the previous 12 months.

(6) On December 18, 2019, the Secretary of State re-designated Russia for the "Special Watch List".

(7) The National Security Strategy of the United States issued in 2017, 2015, 2006, 2002, 2000, 1999, 1998, and 1997, committed the United States to promoting international religious freedom to advance the security, economic, and other national interests of the United States.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to consider any alien who, while serving as an official of the Government of Russia, was responsible for or directly carried out particularly severe violations of religious freedom in the sovereign territory of Ukraine that Russia illegally occupies or controls, including through non-state armed groups and illegal entities it commands and supports, to have committed particularly severe violations of religious freedom for purposes of applying section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)) with respect to any such alien.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF RUSSIA AS A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

For purposes of making a determination of whether to designate Russia as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442), the President shall consider any particularly severe violation of religious freedom in the territory of Ukraine that Russia occupies or controls, including controls through non-state armed groups and illegal entities it commands and supports, during the period of time that is the basis for the determination and designation, to be a particularly severe violation of religious freedom that the Government of Russia has engaged in or tolerated.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5408.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my friend from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for bringing forward this bill that shines a light on the egregious violations of human rights and religious freedom at the hands of Russian-led forces in Ukraine's sovereign territory.

We have been saying it for years, but it always bears repeating: Crimea is Ukraine; the Donbas is Ukraine. Russia must be held accountable for the brutal violations of human rights and religious freedoms taking place under their attempted annexation of these areas.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 provides a range of consequences for governments that persecute people on religious grounds. From public condemnation to trade sanctions, the administration has tools to push back on this sort of abuse.

This bill calls for Russia to be held accountable under the law for the violations of religious freedoms we are seeing in Ukraine.

The bill represents a smart approach to address a specific problem emanating from Russia. We should move it forward along with other efforts to push back on Putin's aggression.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 5408, Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 5408 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in R.R. 5408, the "Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on R.R. 5408, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

I the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the

Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill which I am grateful to have introduced with my colleague, EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri, the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act.

Russia's war in Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea have dragged on for nearly 7 years. The human toll is staggering. The fighting has killed as many as 10,000 soldiers as well as 3,000 innocent civilians.

Another casualty of Russian aggression in Ukraine has been the attack on religious freedom.

Russian occupation authorities in Crimea continue to persecute and intimidate the minority Christian, Muslim, and other religious groups, like the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Putin's puppets in Crimea have subjected them to kidnappings, torture, forced psychiatric examinations, and imprisonment. Recently, eight Muslim Crimean Tatars were sentenced to between 13 and 19 years in a Russian prison on the entirely baseless charge of terrorism.

Minority religious groups in the area of eastern Ukraine, controlled by pro-Putin proxies, have also been forced to flee in order to escape the oppressive conditions.

The religious persecution in Ukraine being committed at the hands of Putin authorities is self-destructive and must be stopped.

Throughout our history, the United States has worked tirelessly to advance religious freedom and protect religious minorities around the globe. This bill follows that strong tradition by accomplishing two things.

First, it brings international attention to the grave violations of religious freedom in the territory of Ukraine—where, again, people need to know, 13,000 people have been killed—that Putin illegally occupies or controls through illegal armed groups.

Second, it helps ensure that Vladimir Putin and his cronies are held accountable.

We cannot allow these grave violations to continue.

In closing, it is vital that the United States continues to be a leader in advancing international religious freedom around the world.

This bill not only brings international attention to the religious persecution being committed in the territory of Ukraine that Putin illegally occupies or controls through illegal

armed groups it commands, but also ensures Vladimir Putin and his thugs are held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Helsinki Commission, along with Congressman and Chairman ALCEE HASTINGS, I would also like to recognize the Helsinki Commission for long championing this issue. In particular, I would like to recognize Nathaniel Hurd of the Helsinki Commission staff for all of his work to ensure that we hold Putin to account for these egregious violations of religious liberty in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, Russia and Putin are responsible for illegal and destabilizing actions all around the world. We need a comprehensive strategy to put a stop to their aggression and impose tough consequences. It is going to take a lot of different tools, and this bill will give us one of them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5408, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

AMENDING DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S REWARDS PROGRAM

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4802) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Department of State's rewards program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4802

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS PROGRAM.

Subsection (b) of section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking "or" after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(13) the identification or location of an individual or entity that—

"(A) knowingly, directly or indirectly, imports, exports, or reexports to, into, or from any country any goods, services, or technology controlled for export by the United

States because of the use of such goods, services, or technology in contravention of a United States or United Nations sanction; or

“(B) knowingly, directly or indirectly, provides training, advice, or other services or assistance, or engages in significant financial transactions, relating to any such goods, services, or technology in contravention of such sanction.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 4802.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure and want to thank the authors, Mr. WILSON and Mr. DEUTCH, for their hard work and leadership.

Since its establishment in 1984, the State Department's Rewards for Justice Program has awarded more than \$150 million to those who help the United States Government bring terrorists and criminals to justice.

Over the years, we have expanded the scope of this effort, offering rewards related to a wider range of crimes and ensnaring more people who mean Americans harm. This legislation would add more and more tools to the toolbox.

This bill was inspired by a former Syrian diplomat and defector named Bassam Barabandi. As an employee of the Syrian Embassy here in Washington, D.C., he worked with antiregime activists to provide passports to critics of Bashar al-Assad, and for years after his defection, Barabandi supplied the United States Government with information on Syrian oligarchs close to the Assad regime. This includes information on Samer Foz, who was ultimately the target of American sanctions.

We want to incentivize more people like Mr. Barabandi to come forward with information that will ultimately enhance compliance with the U.S. and international sanctions, increase confidence in the rule of law, and bring to justice criminals and rogue regimes seeking to circumvent U.S. law.

This bill expands the Rewards for Justice Program by authorizing rewards for individuals who provide information on those who evade the United States' and the United Nations' sanctions.

This is a smart bill that builds on a successful program. I am pleased to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of another bill I introduced with my friend and subcommittee colleague Chairman TED DEUTCH from Florida, H.R. 4802.

This bill will expand the Rewards for Justice Program at the State Department to authorize rewards for individuals coming forward with information on sanctions evasion practices.

The bill was inspired by Bassam Barabandi, a courageous Syrian patriot and former diplomat at the Syrian Embassy here in Washington who worked with the antiregime activists to provide passports to critics of the criminal Assad regime, promoting the best interests of the people of Syria.

For years after his defection, Barabandi lobbied the U.S. Government and provided detailed information on Syrian oligarchs close to Assad and their sanctions evasion practices, including information on Samer Foz, who was ultimately sanctioned by the Treasury last year. He has courageously authored “The Blacklist,” which fully documents those who repress the talented people of Syria.

Barabandi's case highlighted the need to create a clearer mechanism to incentivize individuals to come forward with this kind of vital information. H.R. 4802 will do just that. It will ultimately enhance compliance with U.S. and international sanctions, increase confidence in the rule of law, and bring criminals and rogue regimes seeking to circumvent U.S. law to justice.

For sanctions to be successful, we must have the best information on their ability to hit their intended targets. We must pass many sanctions bills in this body, but it is far easier to pass a sanctions bill than it is to enforce it.

Expanding the Rewards for Justice Program will allow us to acquire information on illegal activity that supports the regimes of Iran, North Korea, and other rogue states from the grassroots. Better information equals better enforcement on behalf of the persecuted persons of those countries. Better enforcement equals better results.

We should pass this bill and help make sure that the sanctions policies are as effective as possible.

Mr. Speaker, there being no further speakers, again, I thank Bassam Barabandi for his courage as a patriot for the people of Syria in the face of the evil Assad regime. He is currently awaiting a decision from USCIS regarding his request for asylum in the United States, and I hope and pray that the Department of Homeland Security rewards this hero of democracy for the people of Syria for his bravery.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, let me again thank Mr. WILSON and Mr. DEUTCH for bringing this bill forward. I

urge a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4802.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TROPICAL FOREST AND CORAL REEF CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7954) to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7954

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 806(d) of the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(9) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

“(10) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

“(11) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

“(12) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

“(13) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 7954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this measure brought forward by my friend from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), to provide continued funding for the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act, what we call the TFCA, for fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

The purpose of the TFCA is to offer developing countries the option to direct a portion of their debt payments to local forest and coral reef conservation activities instead of making those payments to the U.S. Government.

Since the TFCA was enacted in 1998, it made real differences in efforts to

preserve and protect these fragile ecosystems. The State Department has reached 20 separate bilateral agreements with 14 countries, resulting in over \$339 million in long-term commitment to conserve tropical forests.

This bipartisan legislation takes significant strides to build stronger relationships with countries around the world, while ensuring that irreplaceable tropical forests and coral reefs are protected and preserved for future generations.

I am pleased to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7954, the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Reauthorization Act of 2020, led by Representative STEVE CHABOT from Ohio and BRAD SHERMAN from California.

Congress first enacted this important legislation in 1998. The legislation allows eligible developing countries to restructure certain debt owed to the U.S. Government and, in turn, generates additional revenue to support tropical forest or coral reef conservation projects. These agreements also reinvest in locally led civil society and conservation organizations that take ownership of this critical restoration work.

According to The Nature Conservancy, agreements under this program have saved more than 67 million acres of tropical forest in countries such as Botswana, Brazil, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Since first enacted, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act has generated almost \$340 million in local currency for tropical forest conservation projects. These are substantial investments in the health of our world's most critical forests and an investment in future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for their leadership on this legislation here today and previous to this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7954, the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020. It is bipartisan legislation that I introduced with my Democratic colleague and friend from California, BRAD SHERMAN, as a companion to legislation that Senator PORTMAN introduced previously in the Senate.

I want to thank Senator PORTMAN. He has been a longtime leader on this topic, and it makes a lot of sense. It is

really common sense. It helps so many people all across the globe.

Tropical forests and coral reefs are some of the most biologically diverse and environmentally important ecosystems anywhere. Today, however, whether it is deforestation or pollution or overfishing or some other cause, these vital natural resources are threatened across the globe.

Now, many tropical forests and coral reefs are located in the developing world where economic realities can often get in the way of the conservation. It is in the best interest of the whole world to protect and responsibly manage these resources. That is why I introduced H.R. 7954.

This legislation builds on our work on the Tropical Forest Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2018 and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act back in 1998, so this is 22 years ago.

Back in 1998, we set up a debt forgiveness program under which the U.S. forgives a debt owed to us by a developing nation in exchange for that country making investments in conservation work to sustain its critical ecosystems.

Agreements under this program also strengthen local economies by supporting sustainable development of these resources as well as civil society groups in partner nations that conduct conservation works.

And this program has proven results. Since 1998, as was mentioned, the U.S. has used it to conserve 67 million acres—think of that, 67 million acres—of tropical forests. Further, by assisting developing countries to properly manage and sustainably develop these resources, the program follows the old adage of teaching a man to fish.

With these benefits in mind, I am proud to say that our legislation has received the support of Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and The Nature Conservancy, among others.

□ 1600

Finally, our legislation sets a sharp contrast with what the Chinese development model is. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, for example, China has offered elites in developing countries flashy or get-rich-quick schemes and projects, often with little or no regard for the local environment. Citizens in these countries are taken advantage of.

H.R. 7954 keeps one more tool in the State Department's toolbox to help convince developing countries to choose a sustainable, Western model of development that stacks up very favorably with China's model by respecting the country's ecosystem and respecting its people.

Passing this bill, H.R. 7954, extends a highly successful conservation program and helps counter China's pig in a poke development model; therefore, I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I thank Mr. WILSON and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers,

and I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STEVE CHABOT, who is a proven champion for conservation and for ecosystems beneficial to countries around the world for offering this measure. With the expanded authority to use debt-for-nature agreements to target tropical coral reef restoration, there is much more work to be done.

This bill will ensure that the policy objectives and programs outlined in the Republican-led, bipartisan legislation enacted in December 2018 will be fully operationalized. This is a commonsense approach that reduces eligible countries' debt burdens while reinvesting those resources in local tropical forests and coral reef conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. CHABOT for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, the chair of this committee, for his many years of distinguished service in Congress ably representing his district, the State of New York, and our country here in the Halls of Congress while presiding and leading the Foreign Affairs Committee. Today is a testament of all the great work that he has done across the aisle with many Members who have, of course, contributed tremendously to the dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7954.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2020, at 11:50 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 4902.

That the Senate passed S. 2216.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1668.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5901.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 5 p.m.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 6395, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO PERMIT CLOSED CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, I move that meetings of the conference between the House and Senate on H.R. 6395 may be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information may be discussed, provided that any sitting Member of Congress shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, the motion is not debatable, and the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 8, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 222]

YEAS—396

Adams	Balderson	Bishop (GA)
Aguilar	Banks	Bishop (NC)
Allen	Barr	Bishop (UT)
Allred	Barragán	Blunt Rochester
Armstrong	Bass	Bonamici
Arrington	Beatty	Bost
Axne	Bera	Boyle, Brendan
Babin	Bergman	F.
Bacon	Beyer	Brady
Baird	Bilirakis	Brindisi

Brooks (AL)	Gibbs	Maloney,
Brooks (IN)	Gohmert	Carolyn B.
Brown (MD)	Golden	Maloney, Sean
Brownley (CA)	Gomez	Marchant
Buchanan	Gonzalez (OH)	Marshall
Buck	Gonzalez (TX)	Mast
Bucshon	Gooden	Matsui
Budd	Gosar	McAdams
Burchett	Gottheimer	McBath
Burgess	Granger	McCarthy
Bustos	Graves (LA)	McCaul
Butterfield	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Byrne	Green, Al (TX)	McCollum
Calvert	Griffith	McEachin
Carbajal	Grijalva	McGovern
Cárdenas	Grothman	McHenry
Carson (IN)	Guest	McKinley
Carter (GA)	Guthrie	McNerney
Cartwright	Haaland	Meeks
Case	Hagedorn	Meng
Casten (IL)	Harder (CA)	Meuser
Castor (FL)	Harris	Mfume
Castro (TX)	Hartzler	Miller
Chabot	Hastings	Moolenaar
Cheney	Hayes	Mooney (WV)
Chu, Judy	Heck	Moore
Cicilline	Hern, Kevin	Morelle
Cisneros	Herrera Beutler	Moulton
Clark (MA)	Hice (GA)	Mucarsel-Powell
Clarke (NY)	Higgins (LA)	Mullin
Clay	Higgins (NY)	Murphy (NC)
Cleaver	Hill (AR)	Nadler
Cline	Himes	Napolitano
Cloud	Holding	Neal
Clyburn	Hollingsworth	Neguse
Cohen	Horn, Kendra S.	Norcross
Cole	Horsford	Norman
Comer	Houlahan	Nunes
Conaway	Hoyer	O'Halleran
Connolly	Hudson	Ocasio-Cortez
Cook	Huffman	Omar
Cooper	Hurd (TX)	Palazzo
Correa	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Costa	Jacobs	Palmer
Courtney	Jayapal	Panetta
Cox (CA)	Jeffries	Pappas
Craig	Johnson (GA)	Pascarell
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Payne
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Pence
Crist	Johnson (SD)	Perlmutter
Crow	Johnson (TX)	Peters
Cuellar	Jordan	Peterson
Cunningham	Joyce (OH)	Phillips
Curtis	Joyce (PA)	Pingree
Davids (KS)	Kaptur	Pocan
Davis (CA)	Katko	Porter
Davis, Danny K.	Keating	Posey
Davis, Rodney	Keller	Pressley
Dean	Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)
DeGette	Kelly (MS)	Quigley
DeLauro	Kelly (PA)	Raskin
DeBene	Kennedy	Reed
Delgado	Khanna	Reschenthaler
Demings	Kildee	Rice (NY)
DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Rice (SC)
Deutsch	Kim	Riggleman
Diaz-Balart	Kind	Roby
Dingell	King (IA)	Rodgers (WA)
Doggett	Kinzinger	Roe, David P.
Doyle, Michael	Kirkpatrick	Rogers (AL)
F.	Krishnamoorthi	Rogers (FL)
Dunn	Kuster (NH)	Rose (NY)
Emmer	Kustoff (TN)	Rose, John W.
Engel	LaHood	Rouda
Escobar	LaMalfa	Rouzer
Eshoo	Lamb	Roybal-Allard
Españillat	Langevin	Ruiz
Estes	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
Evans	Larson (CT)	Rush
Finkenauer	Latta	Rutherford
Fitzpatrick	Lawrence	Ryan
Fleischmann	Lawson (FL)	Sánchez
Fletcher	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
Flores	Lee (NV)	Scalise
Fortenberry	Levin (CA)	Scanlon
Foster	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky
Fox (NC)	Lieu, Ted	Schiff
Frankel	Lipinski	Schneider
Fudge	Loebach	Schrader
Fulcher	Lofgren	Schrier
Gabbard	Long	Schweikert
Gaetz	Loudermilk	Scott (VA)
Gallagher	Lowenthal	Scott, Austin
Gallgo	Lowey	Scott, David
Garamendi	Lucas	Serrano
García (CA)	Luján	Sewell (AL)
García (IL)	Luria	Shalala
García (TX)	Lynch	Sherman
	Malinowski	Sherrill

Shimkus	Thompson (CA)	Walden
Simpson	Thompson (MS)	Walker
Sires	Thompson (PA)	Walorski
Slotkin	Thornberry	Wasserman
Smith (MO)	Tiffany	Schultz
Smith (NE)	Timmons	Waters
Smith (NJ)	Tipton	Watkins
Smith (WA)	Titus	Watson Coleman
Smucker	Tlaib	Weber (TX)
Soto	Tonko	Webster (FL)
Spanberger	Torres (CA)	Welch
Spano	Torres Small	Wenstrup
Speier	(NM)	Westerman
Stanton	Trahan	Wexton
Staubert	Trone	Wild
Stefanik	Turner	Williams
Steil	Underwood	Wilson (FL)
Steube	Upton	Wilson (SC)
Stevens	Van Drew	Wittman
Stewart	Vargas	Womack
Stivers	Veasey	Woodall
Suozi	Vela	Yarmuth
Swalwell (CA)	Velázquez	Yoho
Takano	Visclosky	Zeldin
Taylor	Wagner	

NAYS—8

Amash	Davidson (OH)	Perry
Biggs	DeFazio	Roy
Blumenauer	Massie	

NOT VOTING—25

Abraham	Huizenga	Richmond
Aderholt	King (NY)	Rogers (KY)
Amodei	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Carter (TX)	Lesko	Walberg
Collins (GA)	Luetkemeyer	Waltz
Duncan	Mitchell	Wright
Ferguson	Murphy (FL)	Young
Gianforte	Newhouse	
Green (TN)	Olson	

□ 1756

Mr. ROY changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. TAYLOR, GALLAGHER, and KING of Iowa changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Hastings	Perlmutter
Beatty (Fudge)	(Wasserman)	(Neguse)
Blumenauer	Schultz	Peterson
(Beyer)	Higgins (NY)	(McCollum)
Bonamici (Clark)	(Sánchez)	Pingree (Kuster
(MA))	Jayapal (Raskin)	(NH))
Boyle, Brendan	Johnson (TX)	Pocan (Raskin)
F. (Jeffries)	(Jeffries)	Porter (Wexton)
Brownley (CA)	Keating (Kuster	Price (NC)
(Clark (MA))	(NH))	(Butterfield)
Bustos (Kuster	Kirkpatrick	Rooney (FL)
(NH))	(Stanton)	(Beyer)
Carson (IN)	Langevin	Rose (NY)
(Cleaver)	(Lynch)	(Golden)
Castro (TX)	Lawrence	Roybal-Allard
(García (TX))	(Kildee)	(Bass)
Clay (Cleaver)	Lawson (FL)	Ruiz (Dingell)
Cohen (Beyer)	(Demings)	Rush
Costa (Cooper)	Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	(Underwood)
Courtney (Hayes)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Ryan (Kildee)
DeGette (Blunt	Lowenthal	Schrier (Kilmer)
Rochester)	(Beyer)	Serrano
DeSaulnier	Lowey (Tonko)	(Jeffries)
(Matsui)	McEachin	Speier (Scanlon)
Escobar (García	(Wexton)	Titus (Connolly)
(TX))	Meng (Kuster	Vargas (Correa)
Frankel (Clark	(NH))	Watson Coleman
(MA))	Moore (Beyer)	(Pallone)
Garamendi	Nadler (Jeffries)	Welch
(Sherman)	Napolitano	(McGovern)
Gonzalez (TX)	(Correa)	Wilson (FL)
(Gomez)	Payne	(Hayes)
Grijalva (García	(Wasserman	
(IL))	Schultz)	

**APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 6395, WILLIAM M. (MAC)
THORNBERRY NATIONAL DE-
FENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on H.R. 6395:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, COURTNEY, GARAMENDI, Ms. SPEIER, Messrs. NORCROSS, GALLEGOS, MOULTON, CARBAJAL, BROWN of Maryland, KHANNA, KEATING, VELA, KIM, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Messrs. CISNEROS, THORNBERRY, WILSON of South Carolina, TURNER, ROGERS of Alabama, LAMBORN, WITTMAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. STEFANIK, Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi, GALLAGHER, BACON, and BANKS.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. NUNES.

From the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of sections 3601 and 3602 of the House bill, and section 1053 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. CONAWAY.

From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of sections 1002 and 8003 of the House bill, and sections 4, 126, and 1086 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MORELLE, HORSFORD, and STEWART.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of sections 212, 279, 569, 570, 1110, 1791, 1797, 1833, and 1834 of the House bill, and sections 516, 561–63, 565, 566, 1090, 5211, 6047, 6091, and 6615 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 223, 229, 332, 335, 535, 540H, 601, 705, 736, 1299N–2, 1641, 1760, 1761, 1772, 1793, 1821, 1823, 1824, 2835, 3201, 3511, 3601, 5101–04, 5109, 10306, and 11206 of the House bill, and sections 311, 319, 703, 1053, 1091, 1092, 1094, 1098, 1099, 2841, 3121, 3125, 3131, 3132, 5239, 6082–84, subtitle I of title LX of division E, sections 6299F, 6614, 6704, and 6706 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. WALDEN.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of sections 902, 1248, 1249, 1299R–9, 1768, 1776, 1779, 1790, 1792, 1798, 1803, 1808, 1812, subtitles H and I of title XVII of division A, and divisions G, J, K, and M of the House bill, and sections 1706–10 and 6231 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. WATERS, Messrs. VARGAS, and LUETKEMEYER.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of sections 213, 843, subtitle C of title XI of division A, sections 1202, 1203, 1207, 1221–24, 1231–33, 1238, 1248, 1249, 1251, 1260D, 1260E, 1261, 1266, 1272–74, 1276, 1280, 1286, 1290–92, 1294, 1296, 1299, 1299B, 1299G, 1299H, 1299K, subtitles H–K of title XII of division A, sections 1299Q–1, 1299Q–2, subtitle M of title XII of division A, sections 1299T–4, 1299T–5, 1521, 1640F, 1659, 1757, 1759, 1823, and division I of the House bill, and sections 1201–03, 1205–07, 1210, 1213, subtitle C of title XII of division A, sections 1231–33, 1236, 1240, 1241, 1251, 1253–56, 1263, 1281, 1283, 1286, 1287, subtitle H of title XII of division A, subtitle C of title XV of division A, section 1661, title XVII of division A, sections 6231, 6251, 6284, 6286, 6293–96, 6299, 6299A, 6299B, 6299D, and 6299F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ENGEL, SHERMAN, and MCCAUL.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of sections 1630, 1631, 1637, 1640A, 1640D, 1640F, 1760, 1784, 1793, 1804, and 9508 of the House bill, and sections 6088, 6096D, 6613, and 6614 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mes. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, SLOTKIN, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

From the Committee on House Administration, for consideration of sections 536, 1101, and 1751 of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Mes. LOFGREN, FUDGE, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 281, 540D, 814, 1055, 1215, 1299O–6, 1299T–4, 1299T–5, 1640A, 1731, 1733, 1762, and 1763 of the House bill, and sections 1296 and 6088 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NADLER, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and Mr. STEUBE.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of sections 601, 626, 627, 1744, 1794, 1795, 2834–36, subtitle E of title XXVIII of division B, and divisions O and P of the House bill, and sections 315, 2861–63, 2887, 6081, and 7861 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of sections 373, 813, 815, 825, 830B, 833, 848, 1101, 1102, 1104, 1105, 1108, 1111, 1114, 1115, subtitles B and C of title XI of division A, sections 1635, 1639, 1640C, subtitle B of title XVII of division A, sections 1744, 1745, 1769, 1770, 1774, 1793, 1808, 9208, and 11410 of the House bill, and sections 631, 1103–06, 1109–13, 5244, 6047, and 9306 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. LYNCH, and COMER.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of section 229, subtitle D of title II of division A, sections 327, 333, 341, 1744, 1771, 1806, 1807, 1821, 1824, 1825, di-

vision E, sections 5502 and 10104 of the House bill, and sections 318, 1098, 1099, subtitle C of title LII of division E, sections 5231–38, and 6087 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mes. JOHNSON of Texas, SHERRILL, and Mr. GARCIA of California.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sections 831–33, 835–40, 840A, 841, 844, and 1633 of the House bill, and sections 871, 872, 1642, 5871–75, and 5877 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Messrs. GOLDEN, and CHABOT.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 311, 312, 332, 560G, 601, 829, 830B, 912, 1101, 1732, 1750, 1760, 1768, 1809, 3501, 3504, 3505, 3507–09, 3510C, 3510D, 5103, and division H of the House bill, and sections 178, 1087, 1635, 3501, 5237, 5246, 6089, and subtitle I of title LX of division E of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HUFFMAN, ROUDA, and GIBBS.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of sections 525, 534, 535, 540A, 540B, 540C, 540E, 540H, 546, 551–53, 560B, 560E, 560F, 560G, 560H, 718, 724, 731, 734, 750H, 752–54, 760, 831, 1101, 1411, 1764, 1790, 1802, and 5502 of the House bill, and sections 741, 744, 753, 762–64, 935, 1089, 1090A, 1090B, 1421, and 6085 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TAKANO, LAMB, and BILIRAKIS.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of sections 1276, 7103, and 7104 of the House bill, and section 6003 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. NEAL, PANETTA, and WENSTRUP.

There was no objection.

**PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE
CONSIDERED AS PRIMARY SPON-
SOR OF H.R. 3025**

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered the primary sponsor of H.R. 3025, You Are Not Forgotten Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative Meadows of North Carolina, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints under clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

HONORING TOLEDO METROPARKS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in recognition of a beloved system of parks and trails in my northern Ohio district: Toledo Metroparks.

On October 27 of this year, Toledo Metroparks was awarded the most

prestigious honor in the parks and recreation industry: the 2020 National Gold Medal Award for excellence in parks and recreation management and, with it, the recognition as the number one park system in the United States of America by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association.

Like many Toledoans, I am immensely thankful for those who have fought tirelessly to create a genuine, world-class system of parks and trails right in the heart of our community. In fact, Toledo Metroparks was among 20 park and recreation agencies and four military installations across our country and in Germany considered just as finalists for the award.

Whether you enjoy bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, archery, or even just relaxing in a hammock, Toledo Metroparks has countless ways to get you outside and enjoying nature.

Congratulations to Toledo Metroparks for receiving this prestigious and well-deserved national recognition. With the recent \$23 million grant from the Department of Transportation to construct the Glass City Riverwalk, a transformative project in the heart of Toledo, our Metroparks will only continue to get better in this 21st century.

Madam Speaker, our office will gladly fly a flag over this U.S. Capitol in the honor of this gold medal award to Toledo Metroparks. Congratulations to all.

□ 1815

CONGRATULATING CINCINNATI ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cincinnati St. Xavier High School's football team on becoming the Division I Ohio State champions.

Led by inspirational Head Coach Steve Specht, the St. X Bombers clinched the title by winning the State championship by a score of 44-3, setting a record for the largest margin of victory ever in a Division I final.

This impressive showing followed dramatic come-from-behind fourth-quarter victories in both the quarterfinals and the semifinals.

I am always proud to be a St. Xavier alumnus, and I feel especially proud of the 2020 Bomber team as the school earned their fourth State championship.

I am especially proud because it is an understatement to say that the last several months have been difficult for our communities in Ohio and across the country. Yet, last Friday night, families, friends, students, and spectators, alike, were able to return to a

little bit of normalcy—exactly why sports and teamwork are so important to the Nation.

Congratulations, again, to the St. Xavier players, to Coach Steve Specht and his staff, and to the St. Xavier faithful.

Go Bombers.

WHY I WEAR A MASK

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I wear a mask so my granddaughter, Aubrey, can return to third grade in-person schooling as soon as possible.

I wear a mask so that one day I can go to church and be surrounded again by a community in prayer.

I wear a mask to look forward to the day when my entire family can get together.

I wear a mask so more people do not have to experience the feeling of loss my family felt when my mother-in-law, Joan Cunnane, passed away from the COVID virus.

Wearing a mask is not a political statement; it is a simple way of saying: "I value the lives around me."

Nearly 250,000 Americans are dead because of this brutal virus, and it is up to each of us to do our part.

Today, I put on my mask as an act of public health, of compassion, of care, and of respect, as a way of asking not what others can do for me, but what I am always saying behind my mask: "What can I do for you?"

RECOGNIZING OAKCREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Oakcrest High School in south Jersey for engaging all of us to be involved in what this Nation is built upon: representative government.

Voting is a right that we must all engage in to see the country that we want to live in. I am proud of them. I am proud of all of you and your belief in America. America is an exceptional Nation, and we can never forget that.

Our predecessors built this Nation with mechanisms in place to ensure that, even though there are problems at times, that we can self-correct and we can heal the wrongs.

I ran for reelection because I believe in a strong America, which makes a strong south Jersey. I believe that what made America great keeps America great. I believe in a strong economy, strong borders, and a strong military, anchored by strong energy, American-made and American-supplied goods and services, all while protecting our environment, our families, and core American values.

To me, this isn't about politics. A strong nation is built upon a strong

economy, built on American-made goods. We must bring American manufacturing jobs back home where they belong. A strong nation does not let foreign governments take advantage of us, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that doesn't happen.

I want to thank all of the professionals at Oakcrest High School, and I thank them for their work through this pandemic, and all of the students for the work that they have done. May God bless them all.

REMEMBERING CECIL CORBIN-MARK

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in remembrance and honor of Cecil Corbin-Mark, whose passing on the evening of October 15 sent shock waves of grief throughout New York's political and activist communities.

A Harlem native, a trailblazer in the fight for environmental justice, and an inspiration to more individuals than he would ever know, Cecil was a giant in his community and across the Nation, and his loss is immeasurable.

Cecil led a life dedicated to building sustainable communities and healthy communities. He worked tirelessly to ensure that people of color and low-income residents always had a seat at the table.

Cecil's impact on the sustainable future of Harlem, our surrounding communities, and our Nation cannot be overstated.

Our prayers remain with Cecil's family and the WE ACT community.

May he rest in peace.

REMEMBERING FORMER REDDING, CALIFORNIA, CHIEF OF POLICE BOB BLANKENSHIP

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of former Redding Police Department Chief of Police Bob Blankenship after his passing late last month at the age of 73.

Chief Blankenship started his career at the Redding Police Department in 1972. After being promoted through the Redding PD ranks, he became chief of police in 1988. He retired after 30 years of service in 2002.

Chief Blankenship served on the State of California Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and was president of the California Police Chiefs Association.

He was instrumental in developing statewide policies for police response to domestic violence incidents, and he brought the first Neighborhood Policing Unit to the area.

Bob was a genuine public servant who cared about the well-being and safety of all his Redding residents.

I send my sincerest condolences to his family and all of his colleagues he served with so many years.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

For 50 years, NIAAA has been the leader in generating and disseminating fundamental information about the effects of alcohol on our health and well-being and applying that knowledge to improve the lives of those struggling with alcohol-related problems.

In the United States alone, nearly 15 million people have an alcohol-use disorder. An estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, and alcohol misuse has immeasurable impacts on families and communities across our Nation.

While NIAAA has made significant achievements toward improving public health over the past 50 years, such as illuminating the negative effects of prenatal alcohol exposure and supporting the development of effective behavioral therapies and medications to treat alcohol use disorder, more work is needed.

With technological advances and an expanding knowledge base, NIAAA is poised to advance alcohol research to the next frontier toward the goal of helping more Americans live healthier, more productive lives.

STOP THE IMPORTATION OF SYNTHETIC FENTANYL FROM CHINA

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, our country is still battling the opioid epidemic, and every day we hear heart-breaking stories of those lost to overdoses during this crisis. Congress must remain vigilant in the fight against opioids, especially synthetic fentanyl from China.

China is the heart of the global fentanyl supply chain, and most fentanyl trafficked into the United States is produced in China. Sometimes Chinese fentanyl is shipped directly into our country, and other times it is brought across our northern and southern borders by smugglers working with Chinese drug dealers.

It only takes a small amount of fentanyl to overdose, and unsuspecting drug users often purchase drugs cut with fentanyl. More and more Ameri-

cans are dying from synthetic opioid overdoses. There were an estimated 31,000 deaths in 2018.

The Chinese Government needs to go after the massive fentanyl operation in their country and should execute the dirtbag fentanyl drug dealers, smugglers, and producers.

I was a cosponsor of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, which was included in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which gives the President the authority to impose sanctions against countries failing to do their part to stop illegal opioid traffic. If the Chinese Government wants to avoid sanctions, they must bring the lowlifes running this massive fentanyl operation to justice.

RIISING NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, coronavirus cases are rising again in Florida. Today, Florida reported 7,925 new cases.

Coronavirus cases are rising nationally. Yesterday, there were over 155,000 Americans who contracted the coronavirus and another 1,707 Americans dead. That is the highest daily death toll since May 14.

American families need our help: testing, tracing, treatment, and a vaccine; keeping our first responders on the job; small business relief; jobless benefits; and food and housing assistance.

And what is Congress doing about it?

The House majority has voted twice for the Heroes Act, including a compromise. President-elect Joe Biden has said right now Congress should come together and pass COVID relief packages like the Heroes Act.

Where is President Trump? Where is the Senate Republican majority? Millions of Americans would like to know.

America is in crisis. We must come together as a Congress, and the time for action is now.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DISCUSSES COVID-19 DISPARITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LEE of Nevada). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today we reconvene our monthly Spe-

cial Order hour of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for the first time, really, since the COVID-19 pandemic reached America's shores.

As we speak here today, America's staring down the barrel of a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the worst one, perhaps, that we have so far faced.

We are adding a million cases a week—yes, a million cases every week. We are approaching a total of 11.5 million cases, more than any other nation in the world by far, despite many more populous countries with outbreaks.

Even more grim, we lead the world in the number of confirmed COVID-related deaths and quickly are approaching 1,000 deaths per day, more than any other nation facing this new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

States and cities are careening towards lockdowns.

Just today, Madam Speaker, New York City ordered a shutdown of its schools. It had attempted to open, partially, the schools, but today the mayor of the city of New York ordered another shutdown of the school system. Over 1 million children will stay at home with their family members.

And so States and cities are locking down as we speak, right now, as we near the Thanksgiving holiday.

Many States across the country, Governors and mayors have spoken to their constituencies and asked them not to congregate in their homes with more than 10 people, family members, during Thanksgiving. It is a wise recommendation by mayors and Governors.

□ 1830

Show your loved ones that you love them by keeping them alive. Don't expose them to the COVID-19 virus. As we speak right here, as I said, New York City has announced that it has indefinitely closed schools.

Madam Speaker, we all know why America is facing such a terrible outbreak of this virus: The abject failure by this administration to act and numerous Republican leaders to take this pandemic seriously. It was minimized, underestimated, yet it was deadly to over 250,000 Americans. The failure of leadership—the failure of leadership to encourage something as simple as wearing a mask.

The phenomenon of the COVID-19's unbridled spread throughout the United States is a serious one. But there is even more serious phenomenon taking place, and that is the alarming disparate impact on communities of color.

So this pandemic zeroes in on communities of color with high rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, and other respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular problems. Deadly conditions for those that are infected by the COVID-19 virus.

When my home State and the city of New York became the Nation's first epicenter of the pandemic, the racial disparities were very clear. The hardest

hit ZIP Codes were those with the highest number of minority population.

My district that has Harlem, East Harlem, Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights, Inwood, and the Northwest Bronx was devastated by the pandemic. Some of the ZIP Codes had the highest numbers of deaths in the country. As the pandemic began to subside in New York, but took hold in other parts of the country, the disparities continue to go unabated.

Studies conducted in June bore out statistically what I had seen with my very own eyes and on the ground. Now, as the U.S. surpasses 250,000 COVID-19 deaths and quickly approaches 12 million confirmed cases, racial data is more complete, and the trend of this pandemic is crystal clear, it discriminates. It discriminates poor people, people with preexisting conditions, with diabetes and high blood pressure. It discriminates communities of color, disproportionately hurting and killing individuals every single day.

The system is broken in so many ways that the pandemic has both laid bare and exacerbated many of these communities. Both African Americans and Latinos are consistently at higher risks for health conditions both environmental and inherited that have detrimental effects on quality of life.

NPR recently did an analysis using information from the COVID Tracking Project, and it shows how the disparities are consistent State by State. One key finding is that Hispanics are consistently dying from COVID-19 at higher rates than their share of State populations, no matter where they are. In May, this was true in only seven States, but it has spread now much more.

Latinos also have a disproportionate rate of infection in 45 States and the District of Columbia. It is, unfortunately, easy to see why this trend is happening. These communities are often more likely to face economic hurdles that have kept them from receiving the quality healthcare that they deserve.

The kinds of preventative treatment that many of us take for granted are a luxury to those folks who cannot afford health insurance. We made some major improvements with the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and getting millions more Americans insured.

But the Trump administration has done everything in its power to hamper that law. As the pandemic raged across this country, they went into court to take away, steal the healthcare for those that need it. And we have begun to see a decline in the rate of those with insurance rather than the other way around.

Preventative care is important because it ensures that other comorbidities are detected early and well-managed. In the absence of that care, something like an infectious disease can make the difference between life or death.

Furthermore, things like food deserts leave many low-income families of color without healthy food options, driving up the rate of problems like diabetes, heart disease and more.

Heavy air pollution in densely populated urban centers, which many communities of color call home, means higher rates of asthma and other chronic respiratory illnesses. So when a highly infectious virus that attacks the respiratory system comes along, it is more likely to take its toll on those that already have respiratory illnesses.

And need I mention that Latinos and African Americans make up a disproportionate share of our frontline workers, putting them at much higher risk. As all of it piles up, it plays out in an obvious way. More Black and Brown bodies in the morgue than there should be.

Madam Speaker, it doesn't have to be this way. Not only can we turn this pandemic around, we can also turn the disparities around. With a national strategy to contain and combat the virus, we can reduce its spread. With a targeted campaign to communities of color, we can keep our fellow Americans safe. And with aid to communities who need it the most, we can keep families economically stable until finally we are out of the woods.

Since enacting the CARES Act, Democrats have twice passed the HEROES Act to get critical aid to our communities. Billions of dollars for testing, tracing, and treatment. The three Ts. Testing, tracing, and treatment. Billions of dollars for hospitals and needed personal protective equipment.

Billions of dollars for small businesses, and the entertainment and food service industries, which are taking a devastating hit. Billions of dollars for public transportation and their frontline workers, who have heroically kept service going despite months of plummeting ridership because they need to get doctors and nurses and first responders and supermarket workers to and from work, back home.

Billions of dollars for State and city governments who are facing dire revenue shortfalls through no fault of their own.

The President has blamed States, divided our country, pointed fingers. This is a time of leadership in crisis. There are no blue or red States. There are the United States of America. And many of those State governments are hurting. They are at the precipice of a fiscal crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Madam Speaker, billions of dollars directly into the pockets of fellow Americans through a second stimulus payment, and the \$600 unemployment benefits. I have seen with my very own eyes the food lines getting longer and longer around the block. People need the \$600 unemployment benefits. People need another stimulus check for \$1,200. They need the help. America needs the help. But the White House is

silent and MITCH MCCONNELL is Doctor No.

But Republicans in the Senate have refused to even consider the HEROES Act. The Trump administration has dragged us along as we have tried to negotiate to get robust help for the American people, as they should have it in this moment of crisis. It is long past time for them to come to the table and work with us to get the HEROES Act signed into law right now. The people need the help.

Finally, Madam Speaker, while we have seen terrible news about the rise in cases and deaths these past couple of weeks, we have also been given a light at the end of the tunnel.

But before I speak about that, I also want to highlight that many families across the country are backed up in their rent payments—2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, and maybe 6 months—and they just don't know where they are going to get the money to pay their rent at the end of the road. So we must provide also the rental assistance, the \$100 billion in the HEROES Act for renters across America that can't sleep at night because they do not know where they are going to get the money to pay the rent. They are backed up 3, 4, 5, 6 months' worth of rent. This is a crisis.

However, in just the past few days, we have received the good news that the COVID-19 vaccine may be more than 90 percent effective at an incredible rate. It is within our reach. And while it may take time to produce the doses that we need to treat everybody and stand up the infrastructure to get the vaccine to those who really need it, we must make sure from the outset that the vaccine distribution is fair and equitable. The ethics of the vaccine distribution must be fair and equitable.

We cannot make the same mistake with the vaccine that we made with testing. We can't leave States and communities on their own to fight in the free market to wing it on their own for such a vital public health resource that is of life and death.

We cannot allow important things like a vaccine that will be in such limited supply to flow to those who are able to pay the highest prices. We cannot allow rich folks to muscle in and get the vaccine while poor people that suffer from preexisting conditions are exposed to the virus.

We need a comprehensive plan to ensure that the vaccine gets to the most vulnerable, the quicker the better. And we must make sure that communities that were hardest hit by the pandemic are attended first.

Communities of color, the African-American community, the Hispanic community, Native Americans and others were left out of testing and they were short-changed. We must not do that again. They were left out of the ICU beds. We must not do that again.

But they must not be left out of the vaccine distribution. They must be fair

and equitable. The distribution must be fair and equitable. Given the disparate way which this virus has hit our communities, they should be amongst the first to receive the vaccine and get treated.

I thank the Madam Speaker for allowing me to address the House on this issue of crisis, of imperative action that must be taken immediately to address the millions and millions of families that are scared in their homes with this pandemic raging across the country.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA).

□ 1845

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman ESPAILLAT for organizing this Special Order hour.

Madam Speaker, we are more than 8 months into the COVID pandemic, and I know that each and every one of us has been impacted.

For months, we sounded the alarm on the pandemic's disproportionate impact on Latinos, minority communities, and especially frontline workers.

It is no coincidence that the top five most impacted zip codes in Illinois are in my district. And as many as one in 15 Chicagoans has COVID-19, with a vast majority being either Latino or Black.

But this is a different moment. We are heading into a dark winter and working families cannot wait for Congress to act.

Unless we take immediate action, more will die. The sick are splitting pills to pay rent. Diabetics are rationing insulin to save money. People are going hungry or doubling up in homes to keep off the street.

This falls on us. Congress. The White House.

How can I continue to go back home and explain to my constituents again why Congress can't pass relief for families?

We expect everyone to do their part. Stay home or continue working the frontlines. It is way past time that we do ours.

\$1,200 is all people were given to get through the lockdown, and many of my immigrant constituents didn't even get that. Three, five, four. U.S. citizen-born children could not get their \$500 checks. U.S. citizen spouses could not get their \$1,200 checks because they may be married to someone who doesn't have a Social Security number yet.

We call them essential workers, but really, they are expendable as far as Donald Trump and the Republican Senate are concerned. We call them essential, but they are expendable in the eyes of those who hold the keys to relief.

What do I tell the exhausted doctors and nurses working days at a time at hospitals quickly reaching capacity? How do I explain our inaction to the

mother who had to wait 4 hours just to get tested? Or patients trying to figure out how they are paying next month's rent? Or children who won't have parents sitting at the table this Thanksgiving?

Most of my constituents don't have the luxury of working from home. They are essential workers. They are on the front lines making sure we keep this country running.

Workers are having to make tough choices these days. Go to work with fears of contracting or spreading COVID-19, or stay home and risk losing a job, health insurance, or their home.

All they are asking for is help to get by. People are afraid, frustrated, and worried. I am pissed off, and you should be, too.

What are we doing here? What the heck is the Senate doing sitting around confirming judges while 246,000 families grieve?

Yes, we are all exhausted.

But months of willful neglect and recklessness from the White House, most Republican Governors and the Senate is devastating the Latino community and our entire country and economy.

We have got to get a handle on this virus and our inaction—rather than the failure for the Senate or the White House to act—will only lead to more death and suffering.

We must pass the Heroes Act now. Working people cannot wait until January. Lives are literally depending on it.

I plead with all decision makers to come to their senses to save people's lives and to help restore our economy by doing the right thing. Passing COVID relief legislation that families, small businesses, and communities are dying, literally dying, to receive.

Now is the time for that action, before it gets colder and darker in America. We have the solution and the power to act and bring relief to all of those grieving and hungry and sick families if we act today.

It is time for action and no more words. It is time to rise to the occasion and restore our people and our economy.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague JESÚS CHUY GARCÍA from the State of Illinois. As he clearly said, this pandemic is not just about health issues and the catastrophe that has set on America with the number of folks that are COVID-19 positive or dead, but also has an economic dimension; small businesses must also get another round of grants and PPP forgivable loans to ensure that they continue to function, to ensure that they continue to provide jobs and opportunities for our communities.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to allow the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to talk about the importance of combating the disparities laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic and how we can make up for the harm that has been wrought.

I want to thank all of my CHC colleagues, including Congressman GARCÍA and those that were not here today, that I know are on the streets every day attending to their districts and their communities to ensure that we get through this together, for all the hard work that they have been doing on a day-to-day basis since March to help their constituents and keep all our communities safe.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

FAREWELL REMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, before I get to the heart of what I came here to talk about, I would encourage the two gentleman who just spoke to sign the discharge petition on the bill that would do much of what he just talked about, and that is reopen the PPP program to those small businesses that would be eligible to participate in that. So if they would take that small step, then that may be able to alleviate some of the issues we are dealing with.

Madam Speaker, the first remarks that I gave in this Chamber were during the debate on a concurrent resolution to count the electoral college votes for President Bush and Vice President Cheney after the 2004 election. While I had been in the House Chamber before that January day in 2005, stepping up to the podium was an entirely different and nerve-racking experience.

The Capitol is quite a bit more familiar to me now because it has been 16 years that I have been able to serve. The tunnels are no longer a mysterious labyrinth. I have grown accustomed to long days packed full of hearings and briefings and meetings. My walking speed is certainly quicker than it used to be.

But it is with the same awe and wonderment that I felt on January 6, 2005, that I stand in this Chamber today to deliver my final floor speech as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

When Suzanne and I began this journey back in 2002, we had no idea that this is where it would wind up or how long it would last. All I knew was that I had a window of opportunity to serve my community, and I thought I could do a decent job.

There is a verse in the Bible, Luke 12:48 which says, "to whom much is given, much shall be required." That verse has guided much of my decision-making. God has blessed me with a little bit of talent and an awful lot of life experiences that I thought qualified me to do this job.

There is often an easy path in life, but rarely is it the right path to walk. I have done my very best to use my

Judeo-Christian principles to guide my life and my time in Congress. The work that I have been able to do has been extremely gratifying.

This institution is important, Madam Speaker. It is enshrined in our Constitution. The job that you and I do is important. You and I, however, are not particularly important outside that job.

We use the words “thank you” across a wide spectrum of emotions. We say thank you for opening the door, thank you for picking up something I dropped. The comments I am about to make are at the other end of that spectrum.

I could not have done what I have been able to do, and I certainly could not have succeeded as well as I have, without the steadfast, loving support from my wife, Suzanne Conaway. Suzanne has stood by my side at more events than I can imagine. She has listened to more town hall meetings and stump speeches than anyone should ever have to listen to. She has handwritten some 8,500 thank you notes over the last 18 years. And she has, of course, put up with the hectic schedule you and I get to live under. Her faithful support means more than I can put into words. Thank you, Suzanne.

The people of the 11th District of Texas are good and decent and kind, hardworking, honest Texans who have trusted me to do right by them for the past 16 years.

Madam Speaker, when you and I ask for someone to vote for us or when anybody asks someone to represent someone, we are basically asking them to trust us. Trust us to go do something on their behalf day in and day out. You and I will make hundreds and thousands of decisions that will never get any input from the folks back home. They simply trust you and I to do it right.

That trust is earned over a long period of time, and it will evaporate in a nanosecond if you or I screw up something in that regard.

Trust is held in high regard in west Texas, and I have been honored to have that trust from the folks in District 11 for 16 years.

No Member of Congress gets to do what I have been able to do by themselves. It simply doesn't happen. There are hundreds and hundreds of people across District 11 that have played a direct role in the successes I have had in Congress. I thank the folks in District 11.

I have also been blessed with the best staff any Member could ever ask for. My staff in the district is responsible for helping countless constituents navigate the Federal Government through their superb casework.

Madam Speaker, I can't tell you the number of times I have been confronted by a happy constituent, whose life is just a little less difficult based on something one of my constituents' service folks has done on their behalf. The great news is they think I did it. I

didn't do it. My great team on the ground did it. They do all the hard work, and I get the credit. It is great being a Member of Congress.

My professional staff in D.C. contributes mightily across the entire spectrum, providing counsel on every topic imaginable. All of my committee staff over the years, including the House Ethics Committee—which is a thankless job—the terrific job that the House Intelligence Committee staffers do to help me navigate the Russia investigation, and most notably, the outstanding folks at the House Agriculture Committee, who have done incredible work for me and production agriculture and rural America over the last 6 years, including, Madam Speaker, passing a farm bill the same calendar year that it was introduced.

Thank you to the best staff and the most loyal staff any Member ever had.

To my fellow Members of Congress and the new representatives-elect who all will take that new oath of office next January, remember that your word is your bond. It is irreplaceable.

Wisdom is not only knowing when you are not the smartest person in the room but bringing that person on to your team. That technique has worked extremely well for me. Be an honest broker, no matter who you are talking to.

And, Members, protect this institution. It is worth fighting for. It is enshrined in our Constitution. And never, ever do anything to bring discredit to this House.

□ 1900

Madam Speaker, our Nation faces some incredible challenges. We have heard a description of the pandemic and the wreck that it is causing across this country.

We face a debt crisis, a looming, pending debt crisis that will soon swamp this Nation if we don't begin to address those hard comments.

We face a great power competition with China and, to some extent, with Russia.

But I personally don't believe those are the most threatening and immediate threats that our Nation faces. Our Nation faces a moral decline and the inability to self-govern.

John Adams wrote that only a moral and religious people can, in fact, self-govern. This form of governance is unsuitable for anyone else.

There are things going on in this country that God cannot bless. We use the words “God bless you” and “God bless this country” often. We sing it in songs. We use it particularly casually, almost like the thank-yous I talked about earlier. But each time you hear those three words, “God bless you,” think about what we are asking God to bless, whether what is going on in this Nation is, in fact, blessing.

Since 1973, we have killed over 62 million young babies in this country. God can't bless a nation that long continues on that path.

There are lots of other things that are going on in this Nation that God simply cannot bless. At some point in time, He is going to say enough is enough, and He will put this USA through the same crucible that he put the nation of Israel through throughout the Old Testament when they walked the path that we are walking. I fear that is coming upon us.

There is a solution, though, to that issue. The solution lies in the promise that God has made us in 2 Chronicles 7:14, which says:

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, turn from their wicked ways, seek my face, and pray, I will hear them from Heaven. I will forgive their sins, and I will heal their land.

I will argue tonight that our Nation has never needed healing more than we do tonight except during the Civil War.

That is the promise that God has made. That is also the solution that God provides us if we claim it, if we claim it as an individual, if we claim it as communities, if we claim it as a Nation.

Let's be those people that will humble ourselves, turn from our wicked ways, seek God's face, and pray. He will hear us from Heaven. He will forgive our sins. And, Madam Speaker, He will heal our land.

My time in Congress has been the absolute highlight of my professional career. I will miss wandering these halls late at night. I will miss looking up from my desk and seeing the Dome. But most of all, I will miss the colleagues who have turned into friends and my staff, who has become family.

Madam Speaker, God bless each one of you, God bless Texas, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 4644, the Libya Stabilization Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote

on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 5408, the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 8438, the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-5629. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Egg Products Inspection Regulations [Docket No.: FSIS-2005-0015] (RIN: 0583-AC58) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5630. A letter from the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Admission and Training of Midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy; Amendment Providing an Emergency Waiver for Scholastic Requirements [Docket No.: MARAD-2020-0142] (RIN: 2133-AB92) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5631. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Update of Statistical Disclosures for Bank and Savings and Loan Registrants [Release No.: 33-10835; 34-89835; File No. S7-02-17] (RIN: 3235-AL79) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5632. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Modernization of Regulation S-K Items 101, 103, and 105 [Release Nos.: 33-10825; 34-89670; File No. S7-11-19] (RIN: 3235-AL78) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5633. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's interim final rule — Applicability of Annual Independent Audits and Reporting Requirements for Fiscal Years Ending in 2021 (RIN: 3064-AF63) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5634. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Qualifications of Accountants [Release No.: 33-10876; 34-90210; FR-88; IA-5613; IC-34052; File No. S7-26-19] (RIN: 3235-AM63) received November 16,

2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5635. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's joint final rule — Customer Margin Rules Relating to Security Futures [Release No.: 34-90244; File No. S7-09-19] (RIN: 3235-AM55) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5636. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Program; Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Managed Care [CMS-2408-F] (RIN: 0938-AT40) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5637. A letter from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nondiscrimination Obligations of Federal Contractors and Subcontractors: Procedures To Resolve Potential Employment Discrimination [OFCCP-2019-0007-0001] (RIN: 1250-AA10) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5638. A letter from the Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Off-Road Vehicle Use [RR85672000, 20XR0680A2, RX.31480001.0040000] (RIN: 1006-AA57) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5639. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Adoption of Miscellaneous Petitions to Reduce Regulatory Burdens [Docket No.: PHMSA-2017-0120 (HM-219C)] (RIN: 2137-AF33) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5640. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Response to an Industry Petition to Reduce Regulatory Burden for Cylinder Requalification Requirements [Docket No.: PHMSA-2017-0083 (HM-219B)] (RIN: 2137-AF30) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5641. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Tax Tables and Other Items (Rev. Proc. 2020-45) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5642. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Guidance on the Determination of the Section 4968 Excise Tax Applicable to Certain Colleges and Universities [TD: 9917] (RIN: 1545-BO75) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5643. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Consolidated Net Operating Losses [TD: 9927] (RIN: 1545-BP27) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 631. A bill for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar (Rept. 116-595). Referred to the Private Calendar.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4225. A bill for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera; with an amendment (Rept. 116-596). Referred to the Private Calendar.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 7146. A bill for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez (Rept. 116-597). Referred to the Private Calendar.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 7572. A bill for the relief of Median El-Moustrah (Rept. 116-598). Referred to the Private Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 8769. A bill to support the sustainable aviation fuel market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, Science, Space, and Technology, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina):

H.R. 8770. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a national strategy to combat voter fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ESTES (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. COLE, and Mr. WATKINS):

H.R. 8771. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas (for himself and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 8772. A bill to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer's Law and Kristen's Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 8773. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for permanent duty-free treatment on

imports of basketballs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 8774. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to divert certain parents of minor children, expectant parents, and other caregivers from incarceration and into comprehensive programs providing resources, services, and training to those individuals and their families; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 8775. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take certain measures with respect to protecting the Salton Sea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 8776. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to make grants to eligible applicants to provide stipends to individuals enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 8777. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of State to require aliens applying for certain visas to disclose if they receive funds from 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 Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 8778. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to authorize use of amounts under the Troubled Assets Relief Program to be used for activities under the Emergency Solutions Grant Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Hardest Hit Fund Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 8779. A bill to amend the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 to require Federal agencies to obtain exemptions from certain cybersecurity requirements in order to avoid compliance with those requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 8780. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for additional requirements with respect to electrodiagnostic services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 1227. A resolution recognizing and honoring Dawn Wooten and the integral role that whistleblowers play in holding accountable those that endanger members of the public and violate this Nation's laws, often at great personal expense and risk; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 8769.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Amendment XVI

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 8770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 8771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3, CLAUSE 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 8772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 8773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 8774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 8776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 8777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 8778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 8779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 8780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1002: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 1349: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1556: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1873: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.

H.R. 2200: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 2442: Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 2482: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 2491: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 2746: Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 2898: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 3331: Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 4052: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 4681: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 4705: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4804: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 5340: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 5534: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mrs. MILLER.
 H.R. 5907: Mr. COHEN and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 5957: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 6134: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 6144: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 6389: Mr. EVANS and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.R. 6492: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 6585: Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 6721: Mr. GOMEZ.
 H.R. 6788: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 7087: Mr. BUCK.
 H.R. 7209: Mr. MOULTON.
 H.R. 7276: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 7303: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 7312: Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 7822: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
 H.R. 7940: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. COOPER, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 8031: Mr. BUCK.
 H.R. 8052: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 8080: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 8082: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 8113: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 8242: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 8248: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 8274: Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 8281: Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 8359: Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. MILLER, and Mr. CARTER of Texas.
 H.R. 8368: Mr. GUEST and Mr. ALLEN.
 H.R. 8373: Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 8396: Ms. DEAN.
 H.R. 8438: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 8476: Mr. EVANS.
 H.R. 8519: Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 8632: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 8633: Mr. SIRES.
 H.R. 8662: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CLINE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. DUNN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. GALLAGHER.
 H.R. 8687: Mr. WELCH, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
 H.R. 8702: Mr. GIBBS, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. GRIFFITH.
 H.R. 8707: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 8723: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 8744: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 8745: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 8757: Mr. HARRIS and Mrs. LESKO.
 H.J. Res. 53: Mr. MULLIN.
 H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. KATKO.
 H. Res. 114: Mrs. WAGNER.
 H. Res. 672: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H. Res. 809: Mr. KIM.
 H. Res. 835: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H. Res. 1110: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H. Res. 1203: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
 H. Res. 1220: Mr. STEIL.
 H. Res. 1222: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CASE, and Mr. COHEN.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KELLY LOEFFLER, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, continue to be our strength and shield. Extend Your powerful hands to aid and deliver us.

Lord, inspire our Senators to believe that You continue to work for the good of those who love You. Let Your favor shine upon our lawmakers and sustain them with Your unfailing love.

Lord, release to them the blessings You have stored for those who honor You. You are our God, and our future is in Your hands.

Remind us all to seek first to understand before we strive to be understood.

We pray in Your Sacred 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, November 18, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KELLY LOEFFLER, a

Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. LOEFFLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday something extremely rare happened here in this Chamber, something so unusual that only a few of us current Senators had ever seen it before—a rollcall vote that did not include the name of our President pro tempore and distinguished colleague from Iowa, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY.

Before yesterday, the senior Senator from Iowa had not missed a single vote

in this body since 1993, when he was in Iowa helping with historic flooding.

Since then, across 27 years and 8,927 votes, Senator GRASSLEY had shown up for every single one. It is by far the longest such streak in Senate history.

Senator GRASSLEY broke the previous record back in January of 2016 and obviously continued to extend it for almost 5 years.

This show of diligence and dedication is remarkable by any measure. But because of who Senator GRASSLEY is, it hasn't seemed remarkable at all. That incredible commitment to serving Iowans and working around the clock is just who our colleague is. That devotion is just his daily routine.

This is the Senator who manages to visit all 99 counties in Iowa every single year. We call it the "full GRASSLEY." Nearly 9,000 consecutive Senate votes must have seemed like a cakewalk by comparison.

But yesterday, our colleague's streak had to be temporarily placed on hold. On the advice of doctors, after close contact with someone who had later tested positive for the coronavirus, Senator GRASSLEY began self-quarantining yesterday morning.

Later in the day, our colleague let us know he had tested positive himself, underscoring why his good judgment to follow doctor's orders while awaiting his test result was the right decision.

So our colleague's historic run has been put on pause for the same reason that it was compiled in the first place—leadership, service to others, and a determination to set the right example.

On Monday, in his floor remarks, our colleague reminded all Americans of our duties in this moment:

Although promising vaccines for the coronavirus are on the horizon, it is more important than ever to stop the surge. . . . Wash your hands; limit your activity outside your household; social distance; wear a mask. We are going to get through this together, but we need everyone to do their part.

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



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All of the Senate's thoughts and prayers are with our distinguished colleague, who reported yesterday evening that he still feels fine. We hope that will remain the case. Certainly, if any Member of this body has the good health and stamina to kick the virus to the curb, it is Senator GRASSLEY.

So we will look forward to seeing him soon.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, Senate Republicans have spent months—months—trying to get another bipartisan rescue package passed and signed into law for the American people.

For months, our position has been entirely consistent. We want to reach agreement on all the areas where compromise is well within reach, send hundreds of billions of dollars to urgent and uncontroversial programs, and let Washington argue over the rest later.

There is no reason why doing right by struggling families should wait until we resolve every difference on every issue. But, unfortunately, both Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader have been equally consistent, and they don't think Congress should do anything at all—anything, unless they get to cash out a far-left ideological wish list, including things with zero relationship to the present crisis.

They have continued to insist that Congress must pass their so-called Heroes Act or do nothing at all.

The problem is that their proposal is a multitrillion-dollar laughingstock that never had a chance of becoming law.

Let's recall what Speaker PELOSI's own Members said when she first released this proposal:

I think the Heroes Act went too far. It got loaded up with a bunch of political wish list things.

This is Washington politics at its worst . . . a partisan wish list.

It's a middle finger to the American people.

These are all reactions of House Democrats. And no wonder, because here are just some of the demands the Speaker will not drop: a massive tax cut specifically for wealthy people in blue States; a colossal slush fund for consistently mismanaged State and city governments, with no linkage to actual pandemic needs.

These things are included, but they managed to completely leave out—listen to this—leave out entirely any new funding for a second round of the job-saving Paycheck Protection Program—something we made sure to include in every Republican offering. They want to spend \$3 trillion but couldn't find one cent—one cent—of new money for the job-saving program that has kept small businesses afloat from coast to coast.

Oh, and by the way, because the far-left decided in the summertime they didn't much like the men and women of law enforcement anymore, between the first and second version of this pro-

posal, the Speaker literally took out—listen to this—took out hundreds of millions of dollars for hiring, equipping, and training local law enforcement. I guess by their account, the police don't count as "Heroes" any longer.

By playing all-or-nothing hardball with a proposal this radical, our colleagues have thus far guaranteed that American workers and families get nothing at all.

The pace of our economic recovery and the promise of vaccines on the horizon give us reasons for major hope, but we are nowhere near—nowhere near—out of the woods yet. Vaccines will need to be distributed nationwide and quickly. Republicans' targeted proposal provided billions of dollars to make that happen, but Democrats blocked it.

The PPP has helped millions of American workers and small businesses hang on thus far, but now, in the home stretch, they need more help. Republicans' targeted proposal would have renewed that lifeline for the hardest hit small businesses, but again, Democrats blocked it.

So think about it. We moved Heaven and Earth and spent mountains of money to help workers keep their jobs and help small businesses keep the lights on from the springtime all the way up to now, but now, after all that, with the end seemingly in sight, we might lose the hardest hit small businesses in the home stretch because Democrats have refused—refused—to let us continue helping. We kept family businesses alive for months and months, only to see some of them fail now, with vaccines on the horizon, because Democrats have blocked another round of PPP.

Well, it is not too late to make a difference. Republicans stand ready to deliver this urgent aid. Let's fund all the programs where there is not even real disagreement—just the ones where there is no disagreement—and let's do it now. We just need Democrats to finally get serious about this.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

2020 ELECTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, let me join all of my colleagues in wishing the Senate pro tempore, the senior Senator from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, a speedy and quick recovery. We know he is a strong man, and we have every confidence he will beat this back, as he has beaten many other adversities back in the past.

Now, it has been nearly 2 weeks since every major news network called the Presidential election for Joe Biden. Preparations for the incoming Biden administration are well under way, and still—still—President Trump refuses to accept reality.

This morning brought a fresh series of Presidential delusions on Twitter. President Trump declared—sometimes in capital letters—that the election was a fraud, a joke, and even unconstitutional. Imagine that, an unconstitutional election. That is because Trump's ego is such, when he doesn't win, everything is wrong, false, et cetera.

President Trump, get out of your bubble. You lost. Joe Biden will be sworn in as the next President of the United States on January 20. There is nothing you can do to stop it. Get out of the bubble and work on a transition.

Last night, continuing President Trump's outrageous and dishonest behavior, President Trump fired our country's chief election security officer, Chris Krebs, an honorable public servant, because he confirmed that our elections were secure. This reinforced the No. 1 rule of working for Donald Trump: You can never tell the truth.

But no matter whom he fires or how many times he tweets, President Trump cannot change reality. He lost the Presidential election. Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States, and it is time for President Trump to quit the nonsense, admit the truth, and move on. Anytime my Republican colleagues want to tell him that would be fine by me.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, now, on another matter entirely, the country is facing the worst phase of the pandemic. As the number of new infections and hospitalizations threaten, once again, to overwhelm the capacity of our healthcare system, we have to make sure that our nurses and doctors and all of our healthcare professionals have the PPE they need to protect themselves and their patients safely.

We all remember the early days of the crisis, when healthcare professionals in some parts of the country were forced to jury-rig masks and gloves from spare clothing and bits of string. In my home State of New York, nursing homes alone were burning through 12 million pieces of PPE a week during the height of the pandemic in April. The recent surge in cases might bring us all back to or beyond the peak levels we saw earlier this year. We must do everything—everything—in our power to avoid a repeat of the widespread PPE shortages.

So I am joining Senators MURRAY, PETERS, BALDWIN, and MURPHY to introduce new legislation that authorizes \$10 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile to purchase large quantities of PPE, including N95 respirators, gloves, gowns, face masks, face shields, and surgical masks.

The N95 masks don't need to be worn by every American on a daily basis, but

they provide a much higher degree of protection to our healthcare professionals and frontline workers who are exposed to the virus more regularly. That is why we need the Defense Production Act and get those N95 masks in the hands of any healthcare professional who needs it.

We are calling, once again, for the Defense Production Act, grossly underutilized by the current administration, to be invoked in order to expand industrial capacity to meet surging demand. Our bill will create a \$1 billion grant program for small business to retool their facilities to assist in the production of PPE.

For months, our communities have been held together by the quiet heroism of nurses, doctors, caregivers, and essential workers. We call them frontline workers because they are like our soldiers, putting their own lives at risk to protect the lives of others. And just as we would never send our troops into battle without helmets or bulletproof vests, we must never leave our frontline workers to battle diseases without the N95 masks they need, as well as other PPE like gloves and gowns that serve as their armor.

So, our bill, the Protect our Heroes Act of 2020, should be part of the bipartisan discussion on the next COVID relief bill. Our bill will allow frontline workers to get the N95 masks they need and deserve. We urge bipartisan support for this proposal. The truth is, there should be a great urgency to get something done here in Congress to defeat the virus, save American lives, and forestall even greater pain for our workers and businesses.

Speaker PELOSI and I had negotiated for months, in good faith, with the Trump administration to find an agreement on a COVID relief bill. Democrats lowered our proposal by \$1.2 trillion to move closer to our Republican counterparts. Meanwhile, Leader MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans refuse to take part in those negotiations. Instead, the Republican leader has asked the Senate to accept several inadequate partisan proposals. In every version of the COVID relief legislation that the Republican majority has put on the floor, there have been poison pills included to ensure the bill will fail.

Many Members of the Republican Senate caucus want to spend no dollars, so Leader MCCONNELL has to twist himself in pretzels to put any bill on the floor, and the only way he can get support of his caucus is to put poison pills in so he can wink at them and say: Hey, this won't pass.

So Senate Republicans are seeing this pandemic as an opportunity to try and make it harder to hold corporations accountable when they put their workers at risk. I heard the Republican leader this morning give the same long, tired speech that pretends as if Democrats haven't been trying to negotiate with our colleagues and that we haven't been trying over and over again to get our Republican colleagues to talk with us.

The leader's position hasn't changed over the past few months. He said it again this morning. It is the Republican proposal or nothing at all. I would remind the Republican leader that the House has passed a bill. The Senate has not, and the only Senate bill that the leader brings to the floor gets zero Democratic support. And yet the Republican leader's position is, if you don't take my bill, get nothing, when he knows his bill can't pass the Senate and can't pass the House. It is a feeble position, as the pandemic rages, and it just doesn't fly.

We Democrats lowered our proposal by over \$1 trillion to move closer in negotiations, and what did Senate Republicans do? They didn't move in our direction. They moved further away by cutting their already inadequate proposal in half, making compromise even more difficult.

So, look, we need to reset the conversation here. The country is in desperate straits, maybe more desperate than it has ever been in this crisis. The consensus view of economists and experts is that the country requires a substantial injection of aid: meaningful relief to our schools, small businesses, the unemployed, State and local governments, our healthcare system, among other things. These are not frivolous. These are not someone's whim. These are the desperate needs of people crying out for help. Almost none of them were covered adequately in the Republican leader's bill.

This morning, New York's MTA announced a cut to subways and buses—a flashing warning sign about how desperately we need transit relief. We are going to fight hard for transit relief. None of it is in Leader MCCONNELL's bill.

The two vaccines in development must be produced and distributed on a massive scale, and they must reach underserved and minority communities. The House Heroes bill goes much further in getting that done than the McConnell bill. It is time for our two parties to sit down together and hash out a compromise on a bill that meets the needs of the American people. We have been going around in circles—the Republican leader, in particular—for far too long with nothing new added to the conversation.

So Speaker PELOSI and I have formally invited the Republican leader and our Senate Republican colleagues to join us in bipartisan talks. Our colleagues face a simple choice: They can put the election behind them and work across the aisle to get something done or they can remain in their partisan corner defending the poisonous lies of a flailing President refusing to do the people's desperately needed business.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized. Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I think it is important to point out that as we discuss the issue of coronavirus relief, that Senate Republicans have

now not once but twice brought a bill to the floor of the U.S. Senate that enjoyed the support of a majority of U.S. Senators. There were 52 Senators who voted for coronavirus relief not once but twice—once in September and once in October. Not a single Democrat voted for it.

The Democratic leader was just talking about the House of Representatives, where they passed a bill. Yes, they passed a bill. It didn't have a single Republican on it. It was a massive multitrillion-dollar bill, liberal wish list, that included all kinds of things like bailouts for blue States the taxpayers would have to finance, including tax cuts for millionaires in places like New York and California, and left a lot of the American people who are really suffering from the coronavirus holding the bag.

We believe that there are things that need to be done, and just because we can't do everything that the Democrats want to do on their liberal wish list, that we should do something, and Republicans came together behind a bill. They increased the support above and beyond what unemployed workers would normally get through unemployment insurance—increased that benefit by \$300 a week. It also provided a significant amount of funding for schools as they continue to deal with the cost of trying to stay open safely. It put significant investments into vaccines, testings, therapeutics, support for providers, and all the things that will help on the healthcare front to defeat this virus. And, of course, it provided infusion of additional dollars for the Paycheck Protection Program, which has been so successful in assisting our small businesses as they weather and survive this crisis to try and keep their workers employed and keep their businesses up and operating and keep our economy operating in this country.

Those are all things—all things—for which there is bipartisan support and on which there should be votes, not just among Republicans in the Senate but among Democrats as well, but unfortunately the Democrats have opted not to sit down in a reasonable way and come up with a reasonable proposal.

The bill that came over from the House of Representatives that they continue to tout is something that would never pass in the Senate, and it would never get signed into law.

The bill that Senate Republicans passed—I shouldn't say passed but got majority support for here in the Senate not once but twice—would, in fact, get signed into law and is something that could pass here in the Senate and I believe in the House of Representatives, too, because they are all things that enjoy broad bipartisan support.

The difference is that our bill was targeted to those areas which need the support the most. It was fiscally responsible, recognizing that we have a \$26 trillion debt growing by the day and that every dollar we spend is a borrowed dollar from our children and grandchildren.

It is so important that when we do this, we do this in a way that is thoughtful, deliberative, reasonable, and with an eye toward making sure we are getting a good return for the American taxpayer and delivering assistance in a targeted way to those folks who need it the most—unemployed workers; those who are employed; the small businesses that employ them; the healthcare frontline workers who are out there every day fighting this fight against this virus, making sure they have the PPE to protect them—and then, of course, the important investments we are making in vaccines and therapeutics and testing and all the things that will help defeat this; money for schools, colleges, universities, elementary and high school students and faculty and administration—those who are trying to keep our kids in school, keep them educated by dealing with a lot of additional costs related to providing that education in a safe way.

Those are all things on which there is broad bipartisan agreement. We could pass it today. We could pass it today in the Senate, but the Democrats insist on a liberal wish list, which includes a multitrillion-dollar proposal—multitrillion-dollar proposal—with a liberal wish list, an agenda that in many cases has nothing to do with combating or fighting the coronavirus but simply is an attempt to deliver on a liberal agenda for their political base. So let's just make that point very clearly here when we talk about what we should be doing.

I believe what we should be doing is sitting down and working on a reasonable bill, a targeted bill, a fiscally responsible bill. Republicans have been more than willing to do that and more than willing to compromise, but the Democrats both in the House and the Senate continue to insist upon a multitrillion-dollar bill that consists, again, of a bunch of liberal wish list items—taxpayer bailouts for blue States, tax cuts for millionaires across this country, putting money into diversity studies on cannabis—instead of the targeted things, the things that are really going to be necessary to help the American people and our economy recover from the coronavirus.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY

Madam President, as I begin today, I just want to say that our thoughts are with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY after his coronavirus diagnosis. It was a strange day in the Senate yesterday with CHUCK GRASSLEY not voting, because he broke a 27-year-long streak of showing up for every single vote. We are praying for his swift recovery and his speedy return to the Senate.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, a couple of weeks ago, we confirmed one of the most qualified Supreme Court Justices in living memory. This week, we are confirming more district court judges, bringing the total number of judges we have confirmed over the last 4 years to nearly 230.

Confirming good judges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as Senators, and it is a responsibility that I take very seriously. In fact, one of the main reasons I was first elected to the Senate was to make sure that outstanding judicial nominees were confirmed to the Federal bench.

It is hard to imagine now, but confirming judges used to be a pretty bipartisan affair. Presidents of both parties generally got the majority of their judicial nominees confirmed to the bench. But all of that changed back in the early 2000s.

After President George W. Bush's election, Democrats decided that the President's judicial nominees might not deliver the results that Democrats wanted, and so they decided to adopt a new strategy: blocking judicial nominees on a regular basis. That became the routine here in the Senate.

I was one of the many Americans who were upset by the blockade of impressive, well-qualified nominees, and it was one of the main reasons that I ran for the Senate in 2004. I promised South Dakotans that if they elected me, I would help put outstanding, impartial judges on the bench. I am proud to have delivered on that promise.

The list of outstanding judicial nominees we have confirmed over the past 4 years is long. We have confirmed brilliant, accomplished men and women with superb qualifications, but most importantly, we have confirmed men and women who understand the proper role of a judge, who know that the job of a judge is to interpret the law, not make the law, to call balls and strikes, not to rewrite rules of the game.

It is here that Republican judicial philosophy diverges from the judicial philosophy of a lot of Democrats. Republicans believe that the job of a judge is to look at the law and the Constitution and then rule based on how those things apply to the facts in a particular case. Judges, we believe, should leave their politics and their personal opinions at the courtroom door and base their opinions solely on what the law and the Constitution say.

For Democrats, on the other hand, what matters most is not how judges reach their conclusion, not whether they apply the law, but what outcomes they deliver. If a judge can deliver the right outcome by following the plain meaning of the law, then great, but if she can't, then Democrats want a judge to reach beyond the plain meaning of the statute to deliver what Democrats see as an appropriate result.

Then-Presidential candidate Barack Obama back in 2007 said:

[What you've got to look at is, what is in the justice's heart? What's their broader vision of what America should be?

Well, that is a very dangerous standard. It is not the job of a judge to impose his or her "broader vision of what America should be"; it is the job of a judge to determine what the law says and then apply the law to the particular case before him.

President Obama famously said that he wanted judges with empathy. Well, that is all very well until you are a party in a case, and you have the law on your side, but the judge empathizes with the opposing party. What happens then?

The only way to preserve the rule of law in this country is to confirm judges who understand that their allegiance must be to the law and to the Constitution, not to their personal feelings, their personal beliefs, their political beliefs, or their "broader vision of what America should be." Otherwise, you replace the rule of law with the rule of a bunch of individual judges.

So I am very thankful that we have confirmed so many judges who understand that the job of a judge is to apply the law, not make it, and who won't try to usurp the role of Congress by legislating from the Federal bench. I thank the majority leader for making judicial confirmations such a priority. I look forward to confirming more outstanding judicial nominees this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Vaden nomination be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John Boozman, David Perdue, James E. Risch, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea," the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Loeffler	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Enzi	Paul	
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markley	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Grassley	Scott (FL)
Feinstein	Harris	
Gardner	Sanders	

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

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Wyoming.

2020 ELECTIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about what the voters of America told the elected representatives in Washington about the election earlier this month. There has been a lot of analysis about what happened this year in the elections—who got what right, who got what wrong. The pollsters, the prognos-

ticators, and the pundits—well, they are already taking a beating for their many wrong predictions.

The American people in States all across this country and, certainly, in Wyoming, rejected this far-left agenda. They saw what the Democrats were offering, and they said: No, thank you. Voters looked at the violent leftwing protests that have wrecked large cities and small cities across the country. People saw the death, injuries, and destruction of property, and Americans went to the polls and said: No, thank you. They rejected the Democrats' calls to defund the police; rebuffed the Democrats' threats to pack the Supreme Court; and said no to one-size-fits-all, government-run healthcare. They snubbed the Democrats' embrace of the Green New Deal and rejected this far-left plan to end American energy production. Basically, Americans said no.

Many Democrats ran on this far-left agenda. They lost despite spending hundreds of millions of dollars trying to convince Americans otherwise. The Democrats must be asking themselves: What did we get wrong?

No matter how much the Democrat Party pushes and their candidates push, America is not a far-left country. Americans don't want to blow up the Senate or the Supreme Court. They don't want to add more States to the Union or more Justices to the Court. They don't want to kill our energy economy and the good jobs it provides. People do not want to pay \$10 a gallon for gasoline when they fill up under the Green New Deal. They don't want more government meddling in their personal healthcare decisions.

I know what the people of Wyoming want, and Members ought to know this. Americans want jobs and security. They want to get back to work in a free enterprise economy, not a socialist one. They want their kids back in school safely to make sure they don't fall further behind. People are smart enough to know that the free stuff for everyone means the American taxpayer will be left footing the bill.

Between now and the end of the year, we have very important things to do for the Nation in this body, the U.S. Senate. We need to fund the government. We need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. We need to confirm well-qualified nominees to the Federal judiciary. Senate Republicans are ready to get that work done. There is also work to be done in our fight against the coronavirus.

The Democrat House has played politics with American lives and livelihoods for months now. With the election behind us, I hope it will take a more sensible approach to this Nation's most pressing problem right now. For months, Senate Republicans put forward targeted proposals—first in September, again in October—that provided comprehensive coronavirus relief, that focused on the coronavirus. There were 52 Republicans who came to

the floor of this Senate and voted in favor of the proposal. Not a single Democrat voted for it. It is our plan to get people back to work, to get kids back to school safely, and to put the disease behind us.

Just last week, Pfizer announced a vaccine that could be 90 percent effective in the fight against the coronavirus. This morning, it found out, with more testing and more time, that it will be, actually, 94½ percent effective. Now Moderna and the National Institutes of Health have developed a vaccine that is almost 95 percent effective. There are four other vaccines in the trials, and one of the Members of this body, the Senator from Ohio, is part of the trial of one of those. I believe additional vaccines will be coming down the pipeline as well.

It was a front-page story yesterday in every major paper in America—the good news about vaccines and that the light at the end of the tunnel of the coronavirus is upon us.

Today there was an announcement of an at-home test for coronavirus—very, very promising.

But when we think about the vaccine and why this all happened, Congress wisely invested \$18 billion for vaccine treatment and for research, and it is paying off.

The Governor of New York, astonishingly, called this bad news. He said this is bad news. It had to do with the fact that this is coming out now, and he wanted it to wait for a couple of months, after a Presidential inauguration.

Why is it bad news that, through innovation and the work of the Cures Act, which came out of this body under the Republican majority and was then accepted by unanimous consent in the House—why is it bad news that we may be able to save millions, if not tens of millions, of lives all around the world? Why is it bad news, as the Governor of New York calls it? Why is it bad news that American invention and innovation and an investment by this body has brought about such a tremendous—what I would call as a doctor—modern medical miracle?

Now, we still need to provide additional funding for vaccine distribution, and there is going to be a briefing tomorrow for all the Senators on both sides of the aisle with Operation Warp Speed to talk with the heads of research and distribution about how to make sure we can continue on this path to success—a path that the New York Times yesterday described as one that could lead to 20 million people being vaccinated before the end of this year. Bad news, says the Governor of New York, because it came this year rather than after January 20.

It is distressing that an elected official would behave that way, in such a callous manner toward the lives, as well as the livelihood, of so many Americans.

We still have work to do. At every turn, Democrats have blocked our

path. They are keeping us stuck and America stuck in this coronavirus crisis by demanding funding for things unrelated to coronavirus, per the Speaker of the House. You say: Oh, no, she wanted this \$3 trillion for all sorts of things unrelated to coronavirus. She has more money in that bill to send direct paychecks to illegal immigrants—people in this country illegally—than she does for coronavirus vaccines.

That is the kind of opposition and leftist thinking that we have been running into here in this body and that the American people rejected on election day and said: No, we want a path forward. We want to continue the great American comeback. We want our jobs. We want our kids. We want that path forward.

There is still more work to be done, and we are ready to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Oregon.

REMEMBERING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DELBERT LITRELL

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to recognize the distinguished service of one of Medford, Oregon's own and to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in support of the U.S. Marine Corps PFC Delbert Littrell's honorary promotion to corporal.

It is an honorary promotion because it was 75 years ago, in World War II, that Mr. Littrell served in the 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

His service was marked by a combat history of notable intensity and duration. He fought in five pivotal battles that together changed the tide of the war in the Pacific Theater: the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign, between November 1943 and February 1944; the Battle of Saipan, between June 15, 1944, and July 9, 1944; the Battle of Tinian, between July 24, 1944, and August 1, 1944; the Battle of Iwo Jima, between February 19, 1945, and March 26, 1945; and, fifth, the Battle of Okinawa, between April 1, 1945, and June 22, 1945. What an outstanding contribution to make to the fight for freedom, and what a remarkable bit of history to be part of.

As administrative officers noted while evaluating him, Private First Class Littrell performed excellently time and again. He should have received this promotion a long time ago.

The units he served in, however, were under constant enemy bombardment, and the kinds of performance reports and administrative submissions that would have given him that promotion were often misplaced or incomplete in the midst of the rigorous amphibious assaults pivotal to the Allied victory.

It wasn't until earlier this year, three-quarters of a century later, that the Marine Corps Advisory Panel reviewed the comprehensive record of Mr. Littrell's service to the Marine Corps and to the national security of the United States of America, and after reviewing the record, the Commandant

of the Marine Corps recommended Delbert Littrell's honorary promotion to the rank of corporal, which was endorsed soon after by the Secretary of the Navy.

Both of these leaders recognized Mr. Littrell's unique contributions, with the Secretary of the Navy noting the indelible mark that Mr. Littrell has left on the proud history of the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy.

The State of Oregon and our entire Nation are proud of Delbert Littrell's meritorious service throughout World War II. Mr. Littrell's remarkable combat history and his actions in support of freedom mean that this recognition is long overdue.

I am proud that this son of Oregon, who I hope is watching right now, is finally receiving this special honor.

Colleagues, I know that you join me in honoring, respecting, and appreciating Delbert Littrell and his commitment to the fight for freedom and his legacy of service to our Nation with the distinction of corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, the American people sent a clear message in this election. They want us to get to work to empower people with a plan to fight this virus and to get people back to work, back to school, and back to their lives. They gave President-Elect Biden a commanding 5-million vote victory to do that. It is time for us to get to work.

We have had more than 1 million new cases just in the past week. Yet what does Leader MITCH MCCONNELL—what does he keep the Senate in session to do? He keeps the Senate in session and he puts essential workers at risk all to try to ram through an unqualified nominee who pretty much everybody in this body knows has no business serving on the Federal Reserve.

Let's be clear on what this is about. It is about our outgoing President—again, who lost the popular vote by 5 million people and lost an electoral college by a landslide—trying to sabotage our economic recovery on his way out the door. Yesterday, luckily, Senators of both parties rejected that effort. There were 80 million Americans—most ever by a lot—who voted for stability in this election. Judy Shelton, the Trump nominee, promises more Trump chaos.

You can't say you support working people while putting someone in charge who has no problem whatsoever threatening their jobs and their savings to push a bizarre intellectual agenda. She has no idea how to handle an economic

crisis like the one we are in. Her positions aren't conservative. They are not traditionally conservative, which we could debate. I would be willing to vote for conservatives, as I have before, if I thought they were qualified and their thinking was not so far, far right out of the mainstream. But her positions aren't conservative; they are disqualifying.

For three decades, she has advocated returning to the gold standard. No serious person—progressive, moderate, conservative—no serious person, left or right, still believes in the gold standard. She opposes FDIC, Federal deposit insurance—the insurance that protects your money when you put it in the bank. She has flip-flopped on these issues several times during her nomination. The only thing consistent she stands for is that she—no surprise—wants to do what Trump wants to do. But Americans have moved on from Donald Trump, 80 million strong. It is time for the Senate to move on from this failed nomination and this failed Presidency.

This nomination was a waste of time. Look what we should have been doing instead. You all know that. Every moment we spend on unnecessary, unqualified nominees like this is time the Senate isn't spending saving lives. It is time to get to work delivering results for the people whom we serve.

We are watching hospitals fill up again from Oklahoma to Ohio. Our healthcare system is getting overwhelmed. Gig workers and self-employed workers will lose their unemployment insurance at the end of the year. Small businesses and local governments are running out of money. It doesn't have to be this bad.

I have had enough and I think my colleagues in both parties have had enough of this false choice between saving the economy and combating the virus. We have to do both, and we can do both. It is not an unsolvable problem. We need the resources, and we have the resources. We are the greatest, wealthiest country on Earth. We have some of the hardest workers, the best scientists, and the smartest doctors. We have manufacturing expertise. We have natural resources. We have the world's reserve currency. We have all those things.

But President Trump and Senator MCCONNELL want you to believe we can't solve big problems; we can't use our resources to help ordinary families; we can't use our talents to produce tests and PPE; we can't use our ingenuity to figure out how to open businesses and schools safely. They have essentially thrown up their hands and said: Sorry, America, you are on your own. They want you to believe this is the best America can do. In this election, Americans made it clear they don't buy that. They have had enough of aiming low and being told: We can't do that. We can't solve this problem; it is too big. We can't govern. We can't afford it.

We can do big things. We did big things in World War II. We did big things combating communism. We did big things combating the Great Depression. We can do big things, and we can solve the problems for the people we serve.

We did it this past spring. When we passed the CARES Act unanimously, one study said that 12 million people were kept out of poverty because of the \$600 unemployment insurance, because of the help to small businesses, because we helped local governments, and because we helped people stay in their homes. There were 12 million people kept out of poverty.

And the individual checks that were sent out, essentially, that expired in July and August. Since then, we have seen literally thousands of Americans a week falling into poverty. We kept millions of Americans from falling into poverty. We can do it again. We can keep Americans from losing their homes. We put in place an eviction moratorium. We gave people stimulus checks. We helped support the small businesses. Why are we not doing that again? Why does Senator McConnell not want to do that again?

We can rise to meet this moment. We can restore people's faith in their government. We can't allow President Trump—with his out-the-door appointees of people out of the mainstream—we can't allow him to sabotage this economy and sabotage this government from within, creating chaos wherever he can, after voters decisively, decisively, decisively rejected him with an electoral college landslide and rejected him by more than 5 million votes. The voters have sent a clear message to all of us to get to work.

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.

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

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

THANKSGIVING

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am here today to join some of my fellow Senators here to talk about giving thanks to our military servicemembers and our veterans. Certainly, this is the thankful and grateful season that we are heading into. I think November has a lot of celebratory times both for our families and also for our veterans and military families.

There is no question that this year has been most different and has looked very different than most. We have faced so many challenges and adjusted to a new norm of teleworking, telehealth, telecommuting, all kinds of different ways to communicate on our devices, FaceTiming—I do a lot of FaceTiming with my family—and other socially distanced activities, and I don't see that coming to an end in the near future. But in the midst of all of

this, we certainly do have so much to be grateful for and thankful for.

A little fun fact is, I was actually born on Thanksgiving Day, and my parents always joked that they were going to name me "Thankful Ever Moore" because my last name was Moore at the time. And while my parents, thankfully, decided to go a different route with my name, the meaning still holds true today.

It is true because I am thankful evermore for many things, especially, as I said, as we approach this Thanksgiving holiday, which is just around the corner. And it is going to look a little bit different for a lot of people, but that doesn't mean it can't be just as special.

I am thankful evermore for my own personal good health and that of my family's. I am very, very grateful and thankful for the first responders and the essential workers and now those workers in the hospitals who are really seeing a lot more patients coming in with COVID. I think about the grocery store workers, the truckers, and others who have really kept life moving during those first months when we weren't sure how to cope.

I am very grateful for my wonderful community of Charleston, WV, where I have lived for over 40 years. And I am very grateful for the opportunity and the honor of a lifetime to represent the people of West Virginia in the U.S. Senate. I am grateful for our country and all of the great American thoughts and prayers that have carried many of us through these last few months.

But I am especially thankful and grateful for the brave servicemembers who have put their lives on the line for our country year after year. I am grateful for the many veterans who have come before them and for the military families from all over the country who support the men and women who serve.

Just last week, we celebrated Veterans Day. It is always a very special, kind of solemn day in our State, and it is very well attended. This year we couldn't have the parades. We did a lot of virtual celebrations, but it was no less special. This is a day to honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, both past and present, who have stood up to protect the freedoms that we hold dear.

Our military is undoubtedly the very greatest in the world. From the "greatest generation" to our younger soldiers who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, all of our soldiers have served admirably, and I am pleased to be serving with some who have not just served several years ago but in recent times.

My home State of West Virginia has a long and proud history of answering the call of duty. I think we have the highest percentage per capita of military veterans.

I am the proud daughter of a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient. I grew up hearing stories about heroism displayed on and off the battlefield and have always been in awe of those who have served this country.

Interestingly, too, in hearing my father's generation talk about their service to the country, it was always framed in terms of duty and love of country and never in terms of "I had to do this" or "my parents thought it was a good idea." These were things deeply held inside of those veterans who wanted to be a part of something that they held dear—their love of country, their love of freedom, their love of liberty.

Woody Williams is one of those individuals who lives in my State. Many of you have seen them. He did the coin flip at the Super Bowl last year, I think. I continue to be inspired by him every day. I have mentioned him more than a few times on the Senate floor, as have all of our proud West Virginians. He is a proud West Virginian himself and is one of the last remaining Medal of Honor recipients from World War II. He turned 97 last month.

He valiantly fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima and rightfully earned the military's most prestigious medal for his actions during the war. We are so proud of him and all he does with our Gold Star families. We have memorials all throughout our State and across the country, where Woody inspires not just those who have served but those who support and the families who support those who serve. So we are very proud to call him our West Virginia own. We did rename the VA center, hospital, in Huntington after Woody. We had a grand opening. It was really fun.

Whether it be the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the first Gulf war, the ongoing fight against terrorism in the Middle East, and all the conflicts that America has fought, our country's servicemembers have made the ultimate sacrifices to keep our liberties intact.

Sometimes I think people get kind of down about where we are going, and it seems like we don't have the optimism as a country. Do you know what? I am very optimistic because of what I am talking about today.

Without the sacrifices of men and women, we would not be able to have these many freedoms, and it is important to remember those men and women who have supportive family members.

It is fitting also that this month is Military Family Appreciation Month. I think about the different moves or the nights of sleeplessness where you are unsure where your loved one is or how they are serving. This is a month to honor and recognize the sacrifices and challenges that military families face while supporting these brave men and women.

Our military families do face unique challenges, and I think here in this body we take that into consideration quite a bit when we are looking at appropriations and ways to help our families. We are forever indebted to the sacrifices they make as their loved ones are fighting for our freedoms. They are often the ones behind the scenes, faced with difficult decisions every single day, and it is not easy.

I have had the chance to meet many military families and hear about their experiences firsthand, and I have also heard from many of our own here, particularly Senator JONI ERNST, who served as well and is a veteran. Senator MARTHA MCSALLY is also one of those whom I have been fascinated to hear her path and her service.

Whether it is our current servicemembers, veterans, or military families, we are so grateful for their service. It is because of their sacrifice and courage that we are able to enjoy these freedoms and liberties that we all cherish.

This Thanksgiving, take a moment to thank a veteran, a servicemember, and in this environment, a frontline worker, an essential worker—someone who is giving of themselves, sacrificing time with their family and, in some way, putting themselves in precarious situations with meeting the health challenges of COVID.

At the same time, this should not be limited to just Thanksgiving or to Veterans Day or Military Family Appreciation Month. We should be doing this every day, and we should be making sure that those who serve know our appreciation, that those who serve know—like the Senator from North Dakota, who is going to be after me—that their long history of service in our States—and, certainly, the Presiding Officer's State as well—all across this country are not going without recognition.

Without this great sacrifice and dedication to defending the flag, this country would not be what it is today. I mentioned how optimistic and grateful and thankful I am to be an American.

While this year has thrown a lot our way, and it may be difficult to see some of the positives, we must always remember that we have much to be thankful for.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I want to acknowledge and express my appreciation for the comments of the Senator from West Virginia, her father's service, and the service of so many veterans, as well as our colleagues here in the Senate who are here today saying thank you as we enter this time of Thanksgiving for our veterans and all those who serve today. We appreciate them so much.

Of course, that is what this colloquy is all about, for us to come down today and to say thank you to our veterans, thank you to those who serve. I know the Presiding Officer's State has a number of military bases and a large contingent of servicemembers, and they are truly fantastic. They are just amazing. We have two large Air Force bases in my State, and, of course, our Guard and others who serve in our military. I am impressed every day when I see what they do and how they serve. We are so deeply appreciative.

That is what today is all about. It is thanking our veterans and making the

point, I think, that we need to be there for our veterans and our servicemembers every day, not just on Veterans Day, but that we need to be out there every day saying thank you for all that they do for us—and to their families—and to always keep in our hearts and our prayers all of those who are deployed around the world today keeping us safe.

In my State of North Dakota, we have a rich tradition of service. I am so proud of all of our North Dakotans who have served in the military and serve today.

Since I was Governor of North Dakota, from 2000 through 2010, and even since I have been here in the Senate, I don't think I have ever missed participating at home on Veterans Day in ceremonies for our servicemembers. Really, because we were in session last week, this was the first time in, I think, more than 20 years that I wasn't able to attend services at home for our veterans on Veterans Day. So what I did is I went over to Arlington Cemetery and spent some time there.

I also went to the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, and I particularly wanted to go over to the Marine Corps Memorial because my father was a marine. Of course, for his life—he died when he was 87 years old, but throughout his life, you could never say he was a marine because once a marine, always a marine. So even when he was in his eighties, he would say he still is a marine. If you said “was a marine,” then he would get mad at you, but now that he has passed, I can say he was a marine. But he was awfully proud of his service.

As I looked at that Marine Corps Memorial, it made me think of him. It just is, again, a recognition for all of us of how much we owe our veterans.

So it is about thanking them and acknowledging them, but it is also very important that we show our gratitude in other ways, by making sure that our Armed Service forces, members, as well as all of our veterans receive the care, the benefits, the recognition, the things that our Nation has promised them for their service.

We need to follow through on those things. In this Congress we have worked to do that, and we need to continue to work to do that.

Some of the things we have been able to do are work to strengthen the VA's ability to provide veterans with a continuum of care so that not only do they have access to the medical care they need, but they also have that continuum of care as they get older.

We talk about our World War II generation, America's “greatest generation,” as laid out in Tom Brokaw's book and that famous acknowledgment of all that they did in World War II. So many of them, of course, we are losing now, and it highlights the need to make sure that we have the continuum of care there for them, both care in terms of nursing home care and also home-based care as well. We need

to make sure that those options are available to them.

We also need to recognize that members of our military suffer injuries both seen and unseen. There are the wounds that you can see, but then there are also the wounds, the battle scars of war, that you can't see.

In terms of what the VA does for our veterans, we need to make sure that the mental healthcare and the suicide prevention programs are in place there as well. Last month the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act was signed into law, and I was pleased to be able to cosponsor that legislation, and that legislation will help advance a more comprehensive approach to address the tragedy of veteran suicide.

It also expands access to alternative treatment options like hyperbaric oxygen therapy, or HBOT, for veterans who have not been able to benefit or recover using traditional therapies for post-traumatic stress.

Last year, working with others, I was able to secure for the Fargo VA designation as the fifth location in the Nation for an HBOT pilot program, and we recently extended that program for a longer period of time and added additional service area in Jamestown, ND, as well.

I have to say, our VA veterans healthcare facility in Fargo is second to none. They do a tremendous job. I talk to veterans who go there not only from North Dakota but from much of Minnesota, and they really appreciate it. The care there is high level.

Sometimes we hear these stories and have great concern about veterans' care facilities where they are not doing a good job, and we need to address that, but I can say that our Fargo, ND, VA healthcare facility is tops. And the veterans I talk to on a regular basis tell me that, so we are very appreciative of all the healthcare providers who work there and do that very good job for our wonderful veterans. So we need to continue to provide that type of care as well.

Also, I joined with Senator SINEMA and Senator SULLIVAN in introducing the Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act, which enables veterans, regardless of when they served, to access VA's vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits. That just makes sense, particularly during this pandemic. We are seeing the challenges with unemployment for everybody, and making sure that our great veterans have access to work and employment when they come back or leave the service is always a priority. It is obviously very much a priority as we work our way through this pandemic.

So passing this legislation would help provide veterans with greater self-sufficiency, better financial security, and, of course, a higher quality of life.

Also, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I have worked with our committee to ensure that our

Nation fulfills its promise to our Native American veterans. Native Americans serve in our military in a higher percentage than any other ethnic group, which is truly remarkable and a tremendous story.

So, as I say, for all of our veterans, we have to be there, but we certainly have to make sure, then, that we are providing help and support for our Native American veterans who have served as well.

Clearly, Native American veterans face some unique challenges related to homelessness and housing, and that is a function of being on the reservation. They have some unique challenges, and we have to work to address those challenges.

So I have worked with Senator UDALL, the vice chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, along with Senator TESTER, whom I think is ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and we introduced the Tribal HUD-VASH Act, which would provide rental housing assistance as well as housing for eligible Native American veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Our legislation has passed the Senate, and we are certainly hoping that it receives action in the House very soon.

As we continue to support our servicemembers, I also am a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee, and we need to continue to work to invest in our military and ensure that our servicemembers have the tools they need to complete their missions.

In North Dakota we have many Active-Duty servicemembers at our Air Force bases, as well as others in the State. They perform incredibly important missions, and we need to make sure that we are supporting them and our servicemembers across the country and deployed around the globe and that they have what they need to do their missions.

That applies equally for our members of the National Guard and the reserves. As a former Governor—and I know the Presiding Officer was a former Governor himself—the amount that we rely on the National Guard is unbelievable. Their level of service is unbelievable. Whether it is fire or flood or hurricane or tornadoes or any kind of natural disaster here at home or whether it is deploying to the global war on terror in Afghanistan, Iraq, or anywhere else around the world, our National Guard is there. They do an incredible, incredible job, so we need to make sure we are supporting our Guard and reserves just as we support our Active-Duty forces. As a matter of fact, one of our Guard units is actually deployed for a 9-month assignment defending the Nation's Capital. They are here defending Washington, DC.

Again, talk to anybody who is a Governor or a former Governor, and they will tell you just how incredible the National Guard is. And those deployments are not easy. Whether they are

deployed overseas, whether they are deployed somewhere in the United States, whether down on the border or wherever it may be, they serve. And we can't forget that their families serve too. When they are gone, the families have to pick up the slack at home, and they do.

That is one reason that each year since coming to the Senate, I have introduced in the past the Senate resolution proclaiming a national Day of the Deployed to recognize and thank our deployed servicemembers and their family members: Active Duty, Guard, and Reserves.

With Thanksgiving approaching, we are reminded of the many freedoms and blessings that we enjoy as a nation, all of which have been secured by the men and the women who have served and do serve in our Armed Forces.

Today and every day—not just on Veterans Day but today and every day—we say thank you and God bless you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Nebraska.

THANKSGIVING

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, next Thursday is Thanksgiving, and we are here today because, even during a tough year like this one, we have so many things to be thankful for.

In that spirit, I would like to tell a short story about a Nebraskan whose contribution to the history of our country is pretty extraordinary.

In 1886, Andrew Jackson Higgins was born in the small town of Columbus, NE. He spent most of his childhood in Omaha, and he served in the Nebraska Army National Guard after the turn of the 20th century before moving to Alabama at the age of 20 to work in the lumber industry.

He worked a wide variety of jobs, hoping to learn enough to eventually start his own business. He succeeded in his dream in 1922 when he founded Higgins Lumber and Export Company, which quickly grew to become one of the largest lumber companies in North America.

Four years later, his company designed the Eureka boat, a 36-foot-long boat that was able to sail in just a few feet of water. At the time, lumber could only be loaded onto ships at port, but a craft that could operate in such shallow water could run on and off of riverbanks, enabling Higgins Lumber and Export Company to load and unload its lumber just about anywhere.

In short, Andrew Higgins built the Eureka boat simply to make his employees' lives easier, and that was an honorable goal. But throughout the next decade, as it became clear that Hitler decided to plunge the world back into war, the U.S. military began to search for a way to land soldiers directly onto beaches. They turned to the Eureka boat, which beat the Navy's design in a head-to-head test in 1939.

There was just one problem: The only way to get on or off the boat was by

jumping over the sides, and this would leave soldiers exposed to enemy fire in combat. To get around this, the Navy asked Higgins to add a ramp door to the boat's bow. He returned with the final design just a month later, and the Higgins boat was born.

Andrew Higgins' company went on to produce over 23,000 of these boats, and his design worked so well that the Allies trusted them to carry our soldiers across the English Channel on D-Day. Without the Higgins boat, we may not have turned the tide of World War II at Normandy. We may never have liberated Europe from Hitler's grasp.

In fact, President Dwight Eisenhower, who was the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe on D-Day, went as far as to say that Andrew Higgins was "the man who won the war for us."

It was an honor to attend the 75th anniversary of D-Day last year at Omaha Beach, to see firsthand the beach where the "greatest generation" jumped out of those boats that Andrew Higgins built to save the world from Nazism.

I am thankful for them, and I am thankful for the sacrifices that all of our veterans and Active-Duty servicemembers make each and every day.

We all know that Thanksgiving is going to be a little different this year. As important as it is to spend time with our extended family, many of whom we only see once a year, it is just as important to do what we can to protect those we love from this virus.

I won't pretend that it is easy to spend Thanksgiving apart from these large gatherings of loved ones, but I hope the far greater sacrifices our soldiers and veterans have made will help us to keep this hardship in perspective.

This Thanksgiving, let's give thanks for our military; let's give thanks for Andrew Higgins and the Higgins boat, which saved the lives of so many of our soldiers on D-Day; and let's give thanks for our veterans and those currently serving this country in the Armed Forces. Without the sacrifices that they have made and continue to make every day, our country wouldn't be as great as it is today. Their service makes Thanksgiving possible, this year and every year.

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.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I am rising today, along with others, giving thanks to our military and servicemembers and our veterans. In our family, this comes naturally. I am the son of Wes Roberts, a World War II Marine veteran who fought at Okinawa and Iwo Jima, and as a Marine veteran myself, I say with certainty and pride that there is no greater duty than to stand

with those who have put country before self.

I might add that my dad was age 41; he lied about his age and said he was 39. There was a niche in the Marine Corps at that time to be an air ground officer. That quickly turned into a combat situation, both in Okinawa and Iwo Jima. I am very thankful that he was spared. I would also like to add that I thank former President Truman for making a decision that allowed him and 800,000 other Americans to come home.

It is of the utmost importance, especially today, to pause and to recognize and thank veterans everywhere for their service in defending our Nation from threats, both overseas and here at home.

Another point of privilege I would like to point out is that before the pandemic, we were set to dedicate the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial on May 8. That was the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day—an anniversary with worldwide significance.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we dedicated the memorial in September, and now, after decades of work, the memorial dedicated to our President and the Supreme Allied Commander and Kansas's favorite son, Dwight D. Eisenhower, is attracting generations of visitors to the National Mall. I drive by it on Independence Avenue when I am going home. I am always amazed that there are 25 or 30 people taking pictures of Ike, both as President and also the Supreme Allied Commander.

I am delighted that we are relearning the contributions of this great President and a man who basically saved Western democracy and gave us 8 years of peace and prosperity as President.

The memorial encourages all visitors to learn more about the critical role Ike played in not only shaping our Nation and defining the United States of America on the world stage but leading our country through 8 years of peace and prosperity. He recognized the promise of America and the reciprocal responsibility of his people to serve the Nation that serves them. As he said in his first inaugural address, "It is the firm duty of each of our free citizens . . . to place the cause of this country before the comfort, the convenience of himself." It was Eisenhower's decision to launch the D-day invasion that helped turn the tide of war in Europe and save Western democracy.

While the memorial pays tribute to his valiant leadership, it also pays tribute to the "greatest generation." Without their bravery and sacrifice during World War II, the world, no doubt, would be a very different place.

Now, we have another favorite son in Kansas. My dear friend and mentor, Senator Bob Dole, is another one of these heroes of the "greatest generation," and he made a tremendous effort in making the World War II Memorial a reality. In talking with Bob about his effort and then his key role in making the Eisenhower Memorial an actuality

and being successful, now anybody who is a World War II veteran—and those numbers are decreasing dramatically every year—however, they can get some transportation up here on Independence Avenue and pay homage to their Commander in Chief and salute him as they would have liked to have done years back.

I would point out that through my 40 years of service in both the House and Senate, I have said many times that the No. 1 priority of our Federal Government is to provide for the safety and security of our great Nation and to encourage those who protect us and to give them due. It has also been an honor to serve as a marine and to serve the great State of Kansas in Washington.

Our Nation is forever indebted to the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the service men and women who repeatedly answer the call of duty and step forward to defend the freedoms we all hold dear. Each and every one of us—more especially in this body—give the thanks of a grateful Nation to our Nation's veterans.

I would be remiss if I did not close by stating "Semper Fi."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote on the Vaden nomination occur at 2:15 p.m. today.

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I am joined on the floor by the Senator from North Carolina, and I think a few additional Members will be coming to talk about Thanksgiving Day and about one of the things that we are most thankful for in this Nation, which is the service of our veterans who have stepped forward in uniform to give us the free country that we enjoy today and the freedoms that we enjoy today—veterans like my 96-year-old father, who was in World War II, who was recognized at the Ole Miss-South Carolina game just Saturday night as one of the surviving World War II veterans.

So I want to take a personal moment to recognize my dad and people like him who served so many, many decades ago. They kept us safe and defended our most important freedoms, including the freedom that Americans exercised just this month—the freedom to cast a ballot.

I am a veteran myself, and I am a proud veteran. Of course, my accomplishments do not compare with those of my World War II veteran dad's. I am

also the proud father of an Air Force major today, Maj. McDaniel Wicker. So being a veteran is a proud tradition in our family. Also, it is a proud recognition that we make as Members of Congress and to take care that the promises we have made are kept to the armed services members who have stepped forward and donned a uniform.

That means making sure, during this COVID-19 pandemic, that federally run retirement homes, like the Armed Services Retirement Home in Gulfport, MS, have the resources they need. It means acting boldly to reform the VA, which we have done, actually, on a bipartisan basis, in recent years, with legislation like the VA MISSION Act and the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act. These laws have reduced wait times, expanded access to telemedicine and private care, and allowed the Department of Veterans Affairs to fire employees who have engaged in poor performance. As I say that, I might add, when I talk to veterans who have used the services of the VA, so many times, they are complimentary and profusely generous in their praise of the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. For those who don't get the job done and perform poorly, we now have the ability, under this important legislation, to get rid of them and replace them with those who will join the majority of the VA employees in getting the job done.

I have also introduced legislation with Senator Kaine to designate September 30 as National Veterans Suicide Prevention Day. It is something on which, again, we have worked in a bipartisan manner down through the Congresses.

This month is not only Thanksgiving month and election month, but it is Military Family Appreciation Month. Showing our thankfulness to veterans also includes showing our thankfulness to the families of our military members. So I am pleased to join my colleagues and yield the floor, in just a few moments, to my colleague from North Carolina.

Just today, Members of the House and Senate are working on the final paragraphs and the final provisions that remain undecided within the National Defense Authorization Act. This year, it will be named after a retiring colleague of ours, Representative MAC THORBERRY, of Texas, who did not seek reelection this year. I can tell you that Members of the Senate and Members of this Republican conference are working hard today to make our National Defense Authorization Act a reality again for the 60th straight year and to serve those veterans and future veterans who have done so much to make our country free.

At this point, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, before the senior Senator from Mississippi leaves, I would like to thank him for

his comments and for his service to the Nation. He actually spent some quality time in my great State of North Carolina when he was in the Air Force.

Senator WICKER, thank you for your service and for your father's as well.

I rise for the same purpose—to thank our men and women in uniform, our veterans, and those actively serving.

In North Carolina, we have a proud tradition of military service. We have one of the fastest growing populations of veterans in the Nation. We will have surpassed a million over the next couple of years. We also have over 100,000 Active-Duty servicemembers who serve bravely from Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, New River, and Seymour Johnson, which is where my colleague from Mississippi served. We also have a fantastic, well-decorated National Guard and the largest air station for the Coast Guard right up in the northeast part of our State. We have a proud tradition of military service, and I am proud to serve them as their U.S. Senator.

I also have the privilege of serving as the chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee on the Senate Armed Services Committee and on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where we work every day to try to make life better for our men and women who serve today and for our veterans who have served in the past.

I have to say, with regard to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is one of my favorite committees because—and the American people need to recognize this—we almost always come together, Republicans and Democrats, to continue to make installments on a debt we can never fully repay. Senator WICKER talked about some of the progress we have made with the VA MISSION Act, which makes sure that we provide to the veterans who need care the best possible care they can get.

I also thank for his leadership the Secretary of the VA, Robert Wilkie, who is also a native North Carolinian. Out of 17 Federal agencies, he has taken the Department of Veterans Affairs organization, which was ranked 17th as the preferred place to work, to the top 5, and its satisfaction rating among veterans today is over 90 percent. I would put what they are doing up against any of the best healthcare systems in the private sector.

We have a lot of work to do, and I want all of the veterans to know that we are going to honor their service by doing our work here in the Senate of continuing to do better by them.

I also want to talk about the fact that it is Military Family Appreciation Month. I think the real silent heroes out there are the spouses and the family members who are left behind when you are deployed or are in training. We have to continue to make progress for military families. Many people may not appreciate what it is like if you are in a career as a spouse and are being moved from station to station every

couple of years or how difficult it is to get a job. For many certified positions, it can take a year or more for you to get a job in another State, and by that time, you are already planning for another deployment. We have made a lot of progress in this area, but we have much more to do.

On a special note, I want to talk to the military families who are in military housing on our installations across the world, particularly to the folks down at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune.

We are not done with making sure that you have the best, safest, cleanest housing that you can possibly have. We have made a lot of progress in this Congress, but we have a lot of work to do.

So I make a commitment to every servicemember and every veteran: As long as I am in the U.S. Senate, we are going to work to continue to repay that debt. We are looking for your feedback, and we are looking for your input so that we can do right by you.

To all of the veterans and all of the military families, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done and for all that you continue to do.

On a final note, to those of the veterans service organizations, with whom I work closely on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, thank you for your continued service. You have served our Nation in the armed services, and you continue to serve by helping veterans and helping to be a voice up here in Congress.

To the veterans and military families, God bless you, and thank you for your service.

I yield the floor.

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

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I thank my colleague from North Carolina for joining us to talk about our veterans and about how important they are.

North Carolina, of course, is home to many of our Active-Duty installations, which house many of our brave, young men and women from across the United States. Many Iowans will travel to the great Fort Bragg or other installations and call North Carolina home at least for a short while. So thanks to my colleague for joining us today.

Thanksgiving dinner has become the single most celebrated meal of the year, with tens of millions of Americans gathering with family and friends to give thanks for their blessings and, of course, for one another. And, folks, I know that this year, it is a lot different.

While we still have so much to be thankful for, the COVID-19 pandemic means folks will be traveling less and might not be celebrating in larger groups. As a result, many will be separated from their loved ones on this very special day.

But, folks, this is a very familiar feeling for anyone who has ever served in our Nation's Armed Forces. There is

no vacation from protecting our Nation. At any given moment, thousands of men and women, moms and dads, brothers and sisters, are stationed around the world, standing vigilant in the defense of freedom.

Those wearing the uniform aren't the only ones making a sacrifice, either. Back home, there is an empty seat at the family table. There are kids missing their mom or dad, as my daughter missed me while I was deployed. Parents are missing a child, and husbands and wives are missing a spouse.

Due to COVID, many who are stationed in the United States can't even travel home to be with their families. My own daughter will not be able to travel over Thanksgiving. Restrictions have been put in place prohibiting non-essential travel to or from many military installations, including Camp Dodge in my home State of Iowa. But every day, not just Thanksgiving, can be a sacrifice when serving in the Armed Forces. Those who enlist are well aware of this. Yet it is no deterrent.

As a combat veteran with over 23 years of service between the Army Reserves and the Iowa Army National Guard, I understand what many families are going through, and I have a deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make for the good of their neighbors.

Just last year, I visited our Iowa troops for Thanksgiving in Afghanistan. It was good to see them, and I know how much they were missing their families. They also want to make sure that the people back home remember them—remember that they are far from home, remember that they are working hard to protect our freedoms.

Our courageous servicemembers know the real cost of freedom. They have seen and felt it firsthand. Many of them live with that price the rest of their lives. Far too many who survive combat continue fighting an internal battle when they return home.

That is why I have made it a top priority to work across the aisle to combat suicide and mental health struggles among our veterans. My most recent effort would designate a Buddy Check Week to educate veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks. It is a really simple measure that could go a long way to support the health and safety of those who have bravely served our Nation.

During this Thanksgiving season, we also must continue to show our gratitude for those who are putting their own health and lives at risk by serving on the frontlines in our fight against COVID-19.

Throughout this pandemic, there have been over 850 Iowa National Guardsmen working to deliver personal protective equipment, food, and medical supplies all across the State of Iowa. Having served in the Iowa Army National Guard for many, many years, I could not be more proud of their tireless and selfless efforts. That is why I

have introduced legislation to provide tax-free hazardous duty pay for our National Guard men and women to recognize the work they are doing during this pandemic and provide them the pay they deserve.

I know I speak on behalf of all Iowans when I say I am truly thankful for all of those who have ever served our Nation in uniform, and also to their families. This month we honor and appreciate all the sacrifices our military families make to support loved ones who are serving our Nation in uniform.

While this Thanksgiving might look a little different, let's not forget to be grateful for the freedoms and the blessings we have in this truly great country.

May God bless all Iowans, including those serving overseas and those caring for strangers during this pandemic. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, first, let me thank Senator ERNST for organizing this opportunity to talk about our veterans, to talk about those who serve and the obligations we have to them, to talk about their challenges. Last week, certainly Veterans Day was very much on our minds, but also we ought to be sure that our veterans are on our minds all the time.

We have appropriations bills we need to pass that will make a big difference in how veterans' issues are dealt with. Obviously we need to pass the appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and every veteran would want us to pass the appropriations bill for the Department of Defense. But there are also provisions in other bills that help veterans get back into society more effectively when they leave the military.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill that I talked about on the floor last week increases assistance for veterans' employment programs and veterans' training programs. It supports veterans when they move from the military workforce to the civilian workforce. It works to give homeless veterans a chance to have a home, have a job, have an opportunity—break through whatever barrier is a barrier for them. Opioid dependence—we all know those numbers are back up. Those opioid death numbers are back up. Veteran suicide—not one is acceptable. Funding the veterans hotline, funding behavioral health programs, being sure that telehealth can be available to veterans who may not be able to drive all the way to a provider but would be able to quickly contact the person who helps them.

We need to understand the challenges for homeless veterans particularly and post-traumatic stress in other veterans who sometimes don't develop post-traumatic stress until decades after they serve. Often our veterans, not just

in leaving the military but in retirement from whatever they did next, don't realize until that moment how much their service has impacted the way they see things and do things and think about things and are concerned about things.

We need to be sure that veterans who have experiences and skills that they take out of the military are able to quickly connect with employers as they transition to civilian life.

Every employer—in fact, at least I have never talked to an employer who doesn't say: We really hire vets. It is a priority where we are to hire vets.

But we passed some legislation a few years ago, the HIRE Vets Act, which gave the Department of Labor the authority to recognize employers that actually do that—that hire vets, that promote vets, that retain vets. Secretary Alex Acosta was Secretary of Labor at the time, and they took a program that—everybody who advised him on this said it would take about 3 years to set this up. They set it up in about 6 months, and we began to recognize employers around the country who truly do meet the standard that all employers say they meet, and some do. Everybody wants to, but it is easier to say you do it than it is to do it.

Seven Missouri businesses just received earlier this month the 2020 HIRE Vets Medallion Program Award. They are C2C in Chesterfield; Connectria in St. Louis; Arnold Defense & Electronics in Arnold, MO; AME Construction in Cottleville; Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas City, an employer that at one time was the World War I Memorial—the only memorial; On Target Solutions in Belton; and Pod-Grown in Wentzville. They all received the recognition that they really do hire vets and they really do promote vets and they really do meet extraordinary standards that are part of that program. The program aims to highlight companies that do just that.

Third, we have worked to make it easier for military spouses to transfer their licenses and skills from one State to another. We included that in the Defense Authorization Act passed in July. That Defense Authorization Act hasn't passed the Congress yet. It has passed the Senate; it hasn't passed the House yet. I know we have every intention of getting that done this year. But when we do, we put provisions in there that really do allow much easier transfer from one State to another, whether you are a teacher or a nurse or a beautician or a barber or an engineer, architect—whatever you might be transferring and want to transfer as your spouse moves from one assignment to another, it shouldn't take most of the time you are there to finally get qualified to do what you were qualified to do before you got there.

Lowering these license barriers for spouses—I think we ought to also do all we can to lower those barriers for veterans themselves. If you have been a medical technician in the Air Force, it

shouldn't be very hard to become a medical technician wherever you decide to move to after the military. If you have been a truckdriver in the Army, it shouldn't be very hard to get a truckdriver's license pretty quickly once you decide this is where you want to go. If you have been an electrician in the Navy, you ought to be able to get your license to be an electrician pretty quickly when you go to where you go after you leave the military.

So these are the kinds of things we can do. Certainly, our deep appreciation for veterans, our deep appreciation for their families, our honoring the flag that they have done so much for—all of that is important. It is an integral part of what we are as a country. But there are things we also do that show veterans that what they did, what they learned counts, it matters, and we are going to recognize that as employers, as coworkers, as Members of Congress.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, in the Marine Corps, we have a motto: Semper Fidelis. It means "always faithful"—always faithful to our Nation and to the brave patriots who have honorably served it.

Just last week, we recognized a day that is very special to me and I think to all Americans—Veterans Day. On this important occasion, we say thank you to our veterans, to those who have worn the uniform for their courage and for their commitment to protecting our freedoms and preserving our very way of life.

Their service, of course, should be an example to all of us. I try to instill this in my children. It is something I discuss at school groups oftentimes, encouraging people to think about maybe spending some time in military service or finding other ways to serve their fellow Americans.

Our veterans help keep us safe during times of great uncertainty and unease—something all of us, I think, appreciate a little bit more during this trying year.

The month of November also marks Military Family Appreciation Month. Our military families don't always get the credit they deserve, but they bear a very special and unique burden on behalf of our country that, frankly, most of us cannot fully understand. They sacrifice their peace of mind and their well-being on behalf of their neighbors, their communities, and their fellow Americans, people they have never met—What could be more beautiful than that?—because they believe in this Nation and they believe in this country and the values that undergird it.

Even though we can't begin to repay the sacrifices they make on our behalf,

we can honor them, and we can express our gratitude. So this Thanksgiving season, this time for counting our blessings and celebrating how many of them we enjoy even amidst this global pandemic, may we remember all that we are thankful for—every bit of it—and who we are thankful for, as well—yes, our family members, our neighbors, and our close friends, but I personally am thankful for our Active-Duty servicemembers. I am thankful for Indiana's more than 400,000 veterans. I am thankful for their selfless families.

I hope all Americans will join me today, this month, this Thanksgiving, and every day thereafter and reflect on these men and women, the fellow Americans who sacrifice so much on behalf of all of us. Our country simply would not be the same without them; it arguably wouldn't exist without the families who are prepared to sacrifice so much.

So God bless our Active-Duty servicemembers, God bless our veterans, and God bless our military families, and may God continue to bless this great country, the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. ENZI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea," the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Barrasso	Cassidy	Daines
Blackburn	Collins	Enzi
Blunt	Cornyn	Ernst
Boozman	Cotton	Fischer
Braun	Cramer	Graham
Burr	Crapo	Hawley
Capito	Cruz	Hoeven

Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Loeffler
McConnell
McSally
Moran

Murkowski
Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse

Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Young

NAYS—43

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Gillibrand
Hassan

Heinrich
Hirono
Jones
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Manchin
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Peters
Reed

Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Van Hollen
Warner
Warren
Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander
Feinstein
Gardner

Grassley
Harris
Sanders

Scott (FL)
Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that 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. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Mizelle nomination be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Steve Daines, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Tom Cotton, John Boozman, John Hoeven, Lindsey Graham.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea," the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 238 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Loeffler	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Enzi	Paul	
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Jones	Shaheen
Booker	Kaine	Sinema
Brown	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Manchin	Udall
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Grassley	Sanders
Feinstein	Harris	Scott (FL)
Gardner	Murray	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, I rise to give my final speech on the Senate floor, with a heart of gratitude. Serving and fighting for Arizona as a U.S. Senator has been the opportunity of a lifetime.

Many times in the last 2 years, I had to pinch myself that this middle-class veteran became one of only 1,984 Americans to serve in the U.S. Senate and only 677 to serve in both Chambers of Congress since our Nation was formed.

Like most Americans, on my life's journey, I have overcome adversity which could have crushed me but, by the grace of God, gave me a purpose to fight for others. When I was just 12 years old, my dad died unexpectedly of a heart attack. I learned at that early age to treat each day of this life as a gift. I was reminded of that lesson again this year when my 58-year-old brother Martin passed away. Though it wasn't from COVID, this type of deep grief—unexpectedly losing a family member—is one too many of us have faced in 2020. We have been reminded once again that every moment, every day, every chapter of our lives is truly a gift.

As it has been for most chapters of my life, I didn't come here in a traditional or easy way.

I want to first thank Governor Doug Ducey for the blessing to serve the great State of Arizona, especially during these times of unprecedented challenges.

Accepting the Governor's appointment to be a Member of the world's most prestigious and powerful governing body was, like most missions in my life, a high-risk, high-purpose endeavor. Becoming a U.S. Senator was the ultimate expression of one of my life's principles: Do things afraid. I took on the mission with my eyes wide open. I gave it my all, and I left it all on the field in my fight for the Grand Canyon State.

When I gave my maiden speech on this floor, I shared my approach to service, which was forged through 26 years in uniform: Honor your oath. Live up to your calling. Don't walk by a problem. To paraphrase renowned fighter pilot John Boyd, choose to "do something" instead of trying to "be somebody."

As I make the trip back home from DC to Arizona for the last time and close out this 9-year chapter of my life, I do so with gratitude, with joy, with no regrets, and with the pride of having represented the most optimistic, resilient, and gritty people on the face of the Earth.

While my name is on the door of our office here, this has always been a team effort. None of what we have achieved would have been possible without an exceptionally talented, selfless, and committed staff, many of whom are here today. I am so thankful for my team of professionals in DC and Arizona, who truly embody our core values of integrity, service, excellence,

teamwork, and a "make it happen" mindset.

I especially want to thank those who have been with me for all 6 years of my time in the House and Senate: my chief of staff, Justin Roth, whom I trust completely as my closest wingman to lead our amazing team through thick and thin; my legislative director, Pace McMullan, who drives our legislative success and embodies the young, brilliant talent making a difference on the Hill; my deputy State director, C.J. Karamargin, who took a risk to join our team first in the House and built strong relationships across southern Arizona; and Rosa Ruiz, who has been a tireless case worker to help so many Arizonans left behind by Federal agencies. They welcomed our larger team in the Senate to serve the whole State.

Of that incredible group, I want to recognize my deputy chief of staff and State director, Tanya Wheelless, who brought a wealth of experience, maturity, and relationships to lead and mentor our Arizona team, and Alana Wilson, my director of scheduling—really, my director of everything—who has extraordinary capacity and maturity beyond her years, and I absolutely could not function without her on so many levels.

This institution could not operate and the people of all 50 States would not be served without the intelligent, hard-charging, often young men and women who choose to work on the Hill in staff positions. They don't do it for the pay, and they could make much more and work fewer hours in other fields, but they choose these behind-the-scenes, unglamorous jobs to be a part of keeping our constitutional Republic strong. I am so proud and thankful for Team McSally and the profound and lasting impact they have made for others.

Together as a team, we intervened on behalf of over 7,800 Arizonans who were getting the runaround from Federal bureaucracies in the last 2 years alone. We secured nearly \$7 million of benefits they deserved.

To my fellow Arizonans, it was an honor to be your voice and fighter on your behalf.

We crafted a legislative agenda that fought for freedom, opportunity, and security for Americans and Arizonans—the very principles for which I and my fellow veterans put our lives on the line. We played a key role in creating a strong economy so everyone has the opportunity to realize the American dream; rebuilding our military; standing up to China; securing our border; and transforming the judiciary back to its constitutional role for generations to come. This includes the historic opportunity to confirm a pioneering Justice, Amy Coney Barrett, to the Supreme Court.

We worked together in this Chamber to quickly deliver relief during this first-in-a-century pandemic, saving lives, jobs, and small businesses. My thanks to President Trump, Vice Presi-

dent PENCE, Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL, and all of my colleagues who demonstrated leadership and commitment to these important missions.

We saved the mighty A-10 Warthog from being mothballed—again. I stood in the gap to ensure due process for a brilliant senior military leader to continue to serve our Nation, and I told the whole world in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that, as a fighter pilot, retired colonel, and U.S. Senator, I, too, am a survivor of sexual assault. My path of healing, of finding my voice and strength to not be held down or held back, was not easy, but I can truly say, like Joseph in the Old Testament: What others intended for evil, God used for good. I am grateful to God for giving me the courage to tell my story, and I am blessed to be a Senator, not only to lead on reforms that were signed into law but also to use my platform to be an example of hope and healing for others.

During my time serving in the Air Force, I developed a commonsense approach to solving problems that I took with me when I deployed here to DC. This approach, despite the division, obstruction, and dysfunction here in Congress, drove me to tirelessly seek common ground, to find pragmatic solutions that have made a real, tangible difference in people's lives. We know where we disagree—the lines are very bright—but I am proud to say my team always looked for where the Venn diagram overlapped to solve problems and get something accomplished, and it worked. We tied for the most bills signed into law in my first year in the Senate, and I am proud to say I will leave this body ranked as the sixth most bipartisan Senator—because I joined with many in this Chamber, on both sides of the aisle, to find common ground for the common good.

As one of the few combat veterans in the Senate, I was uniquely honored to fight for our military heroes, their families, and veterans. Too often, our men and women in uniform come home with the invisible wounds of war. The legislation that my team and I crafted and successfully got across the finish line gives them the lifesaving treatment they earned and deserve, allowing them to heal and reach their full, God-given potential. Those who sacrifice life and limb for this country—who bear the scars of battle, both seen and unseen, who ran toward the sound of the guns in godforsaken lands—are the heroes we can never forget and to whom we owe a profound debt. My deepest hope is that the work we did to fight for our veterans is a cornerstone of the legacy we leave here in the Senate.

Over these last few years, I have met so many inspiring Arizonans as I have traveled through all 15 counties and engaged with people from myriad backgrounds and experiences. It was an honor of a lifetime to meet four Navajo Code Talkers when attending National Navajo Code Talkers Day on the Navajo Nation; to visit with World War II

vets like George Cross while participating in the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy; to connect with and encourage Arizona sailors patrolling the Straits of Hormuz during heightened tensions with Iran; to secure, then pin an overdue Purple Heart on Iraq war veteran Michael Letcher; and to tour the border with the Ladd family and other ranchers—hard-working, patriotic people whom I never would have met had I not served in Congress.

Over the last several, challenging months, I have been so inspired and proud to witness Arizonans stepping up to help each other get through this pandemic. Our small business owners and universities found innovative ways to make PPE for our frontline healthcare heroes. We delivered meals to doctors and nurses with church congregations and packed up food boxes with the National Guard at local food banks.

Even in the midst of such unprecedented challenges, I, like many other Arizonans, took in the beauty of our great landscapes by hiking sections of the Arizona trail. On a day-long trek to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back with a dear friend, we were joined for part of the hike by the park's new superintendent. We saw firsthand the benefits the Great American Outdoors Act would bring to this national treasure and crowning jewel of our State—legislation we championed in this very room.

I also went on ride-alongs with Border Patrol and local law enforcement to experience the challenges they face in keeping our communities safe and learn how to best support these heroes.

I will miss these life-changing opportunities, but I will always carry with me the time I had and lessons I learned from Arizona's amazing unsung heroes.

As we approach the end of a year that has tested our country, I look forward to spending time, as I do every year, in prayer, thought, and writing for the year ahead. Sometimes I feel the Lord presses a few words on my heart—words that are important to keep strong and guide my spirit for the next year. At the end of last year, three words stuck out during my time of reflection for 2020. I put these words on sticky notes on my bathroom mirror to serve as daily reminders: peace, joy, and gratitude.

In the most difficult year in modern history, I have known a peace that surpasses all understanding, a joy that can only come from a loving Creator, and a gratitude that even on the most difficult days, an almighty God put me on this Earth and in this Chamber to stand in the breach during this moment in our Nation's history.

Standing up for what is right during challenging times is the founding ethos of our great country.

Early in my time in the military, a mentor pointed me to the Book of Esther for guidance as I navigated whether to risk my career to stand up for what was right. I have carried the les-

son of Esther 4:14 as my life's scripture ever since: Can it be that you were put in this position for such a time as this?

I was honored to serve with each of you in this Chamber for such a time as this. We experience this gift of life in seasons, and while this season is one filled with tumult and challenges, I know we will get through it as Americans always do—together.

When I was appointed to the Senate, I thought of this season in my life and decided, if this is the last 2 years of my life, I want to make it count for others. Today represents a change in seasons for me. I don't yet have clarity on what my next mission will be, but I do know who is the author and finisher of my faith and that He created each of us with a purpose. We live up to that purpose when we live, as John McCain exhorted to us, for causes greater than oneself.

This mentality was encapsulated by Teddy Roosevelt in a famous speech more than 100 years ago, one I trust we all know well. I came across his "man in the arena" passage when I was just a teenage cadet in the Air Force Academy, and it spoke to my purpose-driven spirit, so I cut it out and put it on my bulletin board. The same yellowed, torn paper is on my refrigerator today, more than 30 years later.

We can truly say in this short season that we were daring in all we did to advance worthy causes, and our place shall never be with those timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.

It has been a true honor, Arizona. We are an extraordinary State with extraordinary people. I know our future is blessed and bright just like our State motto: "God enriches." I have been enriched by the privilege to fight for you and serve you these past 6 years—2 here in the Senate.

I wish my successor, Mark Kelly, all the best as he represents our incredible State in this hallowed Chamber.

Let me close with the words of Apostle Paul, which I hope and pray will be said about my life in my final days whenever they come. He wrote: "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

May God continue to bless America and Arizona. May we all finish the race and keep the faith.

I yield the floor for the final time.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the McNeel nomination ripen at 5:30 p.m. Monday, November 30. I further ask that at 4:30 p.m. today the postcloture time with respect to the Mizelle nomination expire and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. Finally, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be 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 Senator from New Hampshire.

CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to raise the concern about the need to pass another package of assistance to address the coronavirus.

I had a chance over the weeks that we were in our home States in October and after the election to travel around New Hampshire and to talk with a number of our small businesses, representatives from nursing homes, from our hospitals, from so many of the people who are affected by what is happening with COVID-19.

And what I heard was that too many people are struggling; too many people are hurting, and they need help.

New Hampshire has a small business economy. It is an economy where over 50 percent of our workers are employed by small businesses, where about 98 percent of the businesses in New Hampshire are considered to be small businesses.

And I was very proud of being able to work with Senators CARDIN and RUBIO and COLLINS to design the Paycheck Protection Program as part of the CARES Act that has helped over 24,000 small businesses during the time after it was passed—small businesses and nonprofits.

That also was instrumental in bringing \$2.5 billion into New Hampshire and keeping 200,000 people employed.

Many of those small businesses have bounced back to where they were before COVID-19, but too many of them still need help, and they are worried about whether they are going to be able to get through the winter.

Of special concern are businesses in the hospitality industry—our hotels and restaurants. Tourism is our second largest industry in New Hampshire.

Recently, I had a conference call with a number of folks from the Hotel and Lodging Association. One of the things that they told me is that they are not sure how they are going to get through the winter.

For many of our restaurants, about a third of their business has come over the summer from outdoor eating, and that, of course, is ending in New Hampshire as the weather gets cold. How they are going to make that up is a real question.

Restaurants were the first businesses to be shut down in New Hampshire; they were the last businesses to open up; and now we have a huge industry that is not sure how it is going to get through the year.

The second highest number of workers in this country are in the restaurant industry. We have got to provide some help for them, and it needs to be significant. We also have to look at the hotels. Again, a big piece of what we have got to address.

There was a recent report from the American Hotel and Lodging Association that showed that business travel over the holidays is going to be down significantly. That is a big source of

revenue for many of those businesses, and we have got to provide some help and some additional help for those businesses as we look at trying to get a package of assistance.

Another round of the PPP program is probably important. We know we had about \$125 billion left in that program, but we need to think about how we can target it best to those industries that are most affected, also to minority businesses that may not have a relationship with a financial institution.

So as we think about what we have got to do, that is one of the big pieces.

I had a chance to visit a restaurant over in the western part of our State. It was a business that I visited 6 years ago, right after it had opened—a restaurant and pub.

When I went there, they had five employees. It is a young man and his mother who run the business. I asked him if he was able to get a PPP loan. He said, yes, but he said: My mother and I haven't taken a salary since March because it didn't seem right to lay off one of my five employees who have families just so that I could take a salary. He said: So we are doing everything we can to get by. We hope we will be able to make it, but it is not at all clear that we will be able to do that.

I looked around the restaurant, and in the middle of the restaurant was a big barrel, and it was filled with canned goods and dried goods—food. On it was a sign that said, "Take what you need," because we have so many people who are desperate—desperate for food, desperate for housing.

As I talked to the mayors in New Hampshire, particularly in our two largest cities, Manchester and Nashua, housing and homelessness is a huge issue. Homelessness has increased exponentially. In Manchester, our biggest city, we have 35 encampments of the homeless. The biggest one is on the grounds of the State superior court.

What does it say when, in the richest country in the world, we have so many people who are homeless? And the problem is getting worse. I talked to the community action agencies in New Hampshire, which are providing help for people with housing. They told me they are seeing people they have never seen before—people who need help because of COVID.

Then there are the childcare centers and camps. In New Hampshire, our camps have been a special part of our summer experience. We have people from all over the country who come to camps in New Hampshire. Only six of our overnight camps were able to operate through the summer, and they operate on a margin that says if they don't make it in the summer, they are not going to get any revenue for another year until next summer. They are worried about whether they are going to go under between now and next summer.

Our childcare centers—I heard from Jackie Cowell, who runs an organiza-

tion called Early Learning New Hampshire, which is an umbrella organization for childcare in New Hampshire. What she told me is that if they get no help, by next year 50 percent of the childcare centers in New Hampshire will be out of business.

As I talked to employers at some of those small businesses, they tell me one of the challenges they have is being able to bring workers back when they are able to operate because they don't have any childcare for their kids. And, of course, with schools going so remote, there is a real concern about parents and how they are dealing with their kids. Most parents and most schools want to bring the kids back, but in order to do that, they have to make sure that it is safe, and they need help in order to make sure it is safe. They need help with HVAC systems and with the cleaning supplies and the PPE that are necessary in order to make sure the schools are safe for the students. We have to provide help for those schools. We have to provide help for the childcare centers and help for our small businesses.

Then, of course, I met with nursing homes in New Hampshire. Long-term care facilities have had about 40 percent of the deaths as a result of COVID-19 in this country, and yet they have only gotten about 4 percent of the funding. In New Hampshire, where we have the highest percentage of deaths in our long-term care facilities of any State in the country, 82 percent of our deaths have been in nursing homes.

Right now they have a workforce shortage that averages about 25 percent. It is so bad that our Governor this week reinstituted a stipend for long-term care workers. It is something that he started back in April. It ran through July. As things got better, they needed less help. But now they are back in a situation where they can't get the help they need.

I visited a nursing home in the northern part of New Hampshire, Coos County, our northern most county that borders the Canadian border. What they told me is that while they have some personal protective equipment, they don't have enough to guarantee what they need long term. So here we are, 9 months into this pandemic, and we still have nursing homes that can't get the help they need, can't get the personal protective equipment that they need. They are struggling to get by, struggling to get the workers they need.

Then there are the hospitals. In New Hampshire we have a lot of rural hospitals. One of them has gone bankrupt in the last couple of weeks because of COVID. The hospitals in our two biggest cities have had the majority of the hospitalizations that we have seen in New Hampshire. We have four hospitals, two in Manchester and two in New Hampshire, that have dealt with the most COVID patients in the State. Just when they were beginning to see their patients come back in September

and early October, we are now seeing the cases rise again, and hospitalizations are up. So they are looking at financial shortfalls at the end of this year. If we can't provide help for those hospitals, if we can't provide help for some of our rural hospitals, we are going to see more bankruptcies. That means not just an impact on the healthcare that they provide, but for many of those institutions, they are the biggest employer in their community, so more people are going to be out of work.

So we are looking at this downward spiral that is going to get ever worse if we do nothing to address the needs of our businesses, of the people who are unemployed, of hospitals, childcare centers, and our schools. It is critical that we come to some agreement. We ought to be able to reach a bipartisan agreement. It is one of the things I heard as I was campaigning around New Hampshire. People need help. They need help now. Why can't we work together to get that done?

I think we need to all double down and try to come to some sort of compromise that allows us to provide help to people who need it immediately because if we don't, it is only going to get worse. The number of coronavirus cases are only going to continue to increase, and we need to work to address that.

We need to have a transition that allows the next administration to work with the current administration to make sure that the efforts to get this new vaccine out—the two vaccines that look like they are promising—are going to be effective and we are actually going to be able to get people immunized and have the funding to do that. In order for that to happen, we have to see a change in the transition, and we have to work together to make that happen to provide the help that the States need.

So I am going to be continuing to do everything I can here in this body to see if we can't come to some agreement around a package that would provide help to those who need it, and I hope that all of my colleagues will do the same, that we will all double down on the efforts. I am not saying we should help people who don't need it. That is obvious. But we should help the people who need help because they are struggling, and it is not going to get any better unless we provide some assistance.

I hope we are going to see some action in the next couple of weeks between now and the end of the year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the scheduled 4:30 vote if my remarks run beyond 4:30.

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

ANNIVERSARY OF THE "MAYFLOWER"

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, a great American anniversary is upon us:

400 years ago this Saturday, a battered old ship called the *Mayflower* arrived in the waters off Cape Cod. The passengers aboard the *Mayflower* are, in many ways, our first founders. Daniel Webster called them “Our Pilgrim Fathers” on the 200th anniversary of this occasion. Regrettably, we haven’t heard much about this anniversary of the *Mayflower*. I suppose the Pilgrims have fallen out of favor in fashionable circles these days. I therefore would like to take a few minutes to reflect on the Pilgrim story and its living legacy for our Nation.

By 1620, the Pilgrims were already practiced at living in a strange land. They had fled England for Holland 12 years earlier, seeking freedom to practice their faith. But life was hard in Holland, and the Stuart monarchy, intolerant of dissent from the Church of England, gradually extended its oppressive reach across the Channel. So the Pilgrims fled the Old World for the New.

In seeking safe harbor for their religion, the Pilgrims differed from those settlers who preceded them in the previous century, up to and including the Jamestown settlement just 13 years earlier. As John Quincy Adams put it in a speech celebrating the Pilgrims’ anniversary, those earlier settlers “were all instigated by personal interests” motivated by “avarice and ambition” and “selfish passions.” The Pilgrims, by contrast, braved the seas “under the single inspiration of conscience” and out of a “sense of religious obligation.”

Not to say all aboard the *Mayflower* felt the same. About half of the 102 passengers were known as “Strangers” to the Pilgrims. The Strangers were craftsmen, traders, indentured servants, and others added to the manifest by the ship’s financial backers for business reasons. The Strangers did not share the Pilgrims’ faith, suffice it to say. Winston Churchill, in his “History of the English-Speaking Peoples,” wryly observed that the Strangers were “no picked band of saints.”

So these were the settlers who boarded the *Mayflower*, which Dwight Eisenhower once characterized as “a ship that today no one in his senses would think of attempting to use.” One can only imagine the hardships, the dangers, the doubts that they faced while crossing the north Atlantic. The ship leaked chronically. A main beam bowed and cracked. The passage took longer than expected—more than 2 months. Food and water—or beer, often the beverage of choice—ran dangerously low.

But somehow, through the grace of God and the skill of the crew, the *Mayflower* finally sighted land. Yet the dangers only multiplied. William Bradford, a Pilgrim leader whose “Of Plymouth Plantation” is our chief source for the Pilgrim story, recorded those dangers:

They had now no friends to welcome them, nor inns to entertain or refresh their weath-

erbeaten bodies; no houses or much less town to repair to, to seek for succor. . . . And for the season it was winter, and they that know the winters of that country know them to be sharp and violent, and subject to cruel and fierce storms, dangerous to travel to known places, much more to search an unknown coast. Besides, what could they see but a hideous and desolate wilderness.

And to those physical dangers, you can add legal and political danger. While the *Mayflower* had found land, it was the wrong land. For, you see, the Pilgrims’ patent extended to Virginia, but Cape Cod was hundreds of miles to the north. According to Bradford, “some of the Strangers,” perhaps hoping to strike out on their own in search of riches, began to make “discontented and mutinous speeches.” These Strangers asserted that “when they came ashore, they would use their own liberty; for none had the power to command them” in New England.

Maybe they had a point. But Stranger and Pilgrim alike also had a problem: They couldn’t survive the “desolate wilderness” alone. Before landfall, then, they mutually worked out their differences and formed what Bradford modestly called “a combination.”

This “combination” is known to us and history, of course, as the Mayflower Compact. But this little Compact—fewer than 200 words—was no mere “combination.” It was America’s very first constitution; indeed, in Calvin Coolidge’s words, “the first constitution of modern times.”

Likewise, Churchill called the Mayflower Compact “one of the more remarkable documents in history, a spontaneous covenant for political organization.” High praise coming from him, so it is worth reflecting a little more on a few points about the Compact.

First, while the Pilgrims affirmed their allegiance to England and the monarchy, they left little doubt about their priorities. The Compact begins with their traditional religious invocation: “In the name of God, Amen.” They expressed as the ends of their arduous voyage, in order, “the Glory of God,” the “advancement of the Christian faith,” and only then the “honor of our King and Country.” And much like the Founding Fathers’ famous pledge to each other before “divine Providence” 156 years later, the Pilgrims covenanted with each other “solemnly and mutually in the presence of God.”

Second, they respected each other as free and equal citizens. Whether Pilgrim or Stranger, the signatories covenanted together to form a government, irrespective of faith or station.

Third and related, that government would be self-government based on the consent of the governed. The Pilgrims did not appoint a patriarch; they formed a “civil body politic” based on “just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices.” And immediately after signing the Compact, they conducted a democratic election to choose their first Governor.

Fourth, again prefiguring the Declaration, the Pilgrims did not surrender all rights to that government. They promised “all due submission and obedience” to the new government—not “total” or “unquestioning” or “permanent” submission and obedience. That obedience would presumably be “due” as long as the laws remained “just and equal,” and the officers appointed performed their duties in a “just and equal” manner.

Finally, even in that moment of great privation and peril, the Pilgrims turned their eyes upward to the higher, nobler ends of political society. They listed their “preservation” as an objective of the new government, but even before that came “our better ordering.” The Pilgrims understood that liberty, prosperity, faith, and flourishing are only possible with order, and that while safety may be the first responsibility of government, it is not the highest or ultimate purpose of government. This new government would do more than merely protect the settlers or resolve their disputes; it would aim for “the general good of the Colony.”

There, aboard that rickety old ship, tossed about in the cold New England waters, the Pilgrims foreshadowed in fewer than 200 words so many cherished concepts of our Nation: faith in God and his providential protection; the natural equality of mankind; from many, one; government by consent; the rule of law; equality before the law; and the impartial administration of the law.

Little wonder, therefore, that Adams referred to the Mayflower Compact and the Pilgrims’ arrival as the “birth-day of your nation” or that Webster, despite all the settlements preceding Plymouth, said that “the first scene of our history was laid” there.

But that history was only just beginning. The Pilgrims still had to conquer the “desolate wilderness” and establish their settlement. Considering the challenges, it is a wonder that they did. As Coolidge observed, though, the Compact “was not the most wonderful thing about the Mayflower. The most wonderful of all was that those who drew it up had the power, the determination, and the strength of character to live up to it from that day.”

They would need all that and more to survive what has been called “the starving time.” Upon landfall, the Pilgrims “fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean.” But it would be a “sad and lamentable” winter of disease, starvation, and death, as half the settlers died and seldom more than half a dozen had the strength to care for the ill, provide food and shelter, and protect the camp.

As anyone who has endured a New England winter knows, at that rate, there might not have been any camp left to protect by spring. But what can only be seen as a providential moment came in March, when a lone Indian

walked boldly into their camp and greeted them in English. His name was Samoset. He had learned some broken English by working with English fishermen in the waters off what is now Maine. Samoset and the Pilgrims exchanged gifts, and he promised to return with another Indian, Squanto, who spoke fluent English.

Squanto's Tribe had been wiped out a few years earlier by an epidemic plague. He now lived among the Wampanoag Tribe in what is today Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The plague had also weakened the Wampanoags, though not neighboring rival Tribes. The Wampanoag chief, Massasoit, thus had good reason to form an alliance with the Pilgrims. Squanto introduced him to the settlers and facilitated their peace and mutual aid treaty, which lasted more than 50 years.

Squanto remained with the Pilgrims, acting, in Bradford's words, as "their interpreter" and "a special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectations." He instructed them on the cultivation of native crops like corn, squash, and beans. He showed them where to fish and to hunt. He guided them on land and sea to new destinations.

And you probably remember what happened next. As the Pilgrims recovered and prospered throughout 1621, they received the blessings of a bountiful fall harvest. The Pilgrims entertained Massasoit and the Wampanoags and feasted with them to express their gratitude to their allies and to give thanks to God for His abundant gifts. This meal, of course, was the First Thanksgiving.

Now, the Thanksgiving season is upon us, and, once again, we have much to give thanks for. But this year we ought to be especially thankful for our ancestors, the Pilgrims, on their 400th anniversary. Their faith, their bravery, their wisdom places them in the American pantheon. Alongside the Patriots of 1776, the Pilgrims of 1620 deserve the honor of American Founders.

Sadly, however, there appear to be few commemorations, parades, or festivals to celebrate the Pilgrims this year, perhaps in part because revisionist charlatans of the radical left have lately claimed the previous year as America's true founding. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Pilgrims and their Compact, like the Founders and their Declaration, form the true foundation of America.

So count me in Coolidge's camp. On this anniversary a century ago, he proclaimed that "it is our duty and the duty of every true American to reassemble in spirit in the cabin of the *Mayflower*, rededicate ourselves to the Pilgrims' great work by re-signing and reaffirming the document that has made mankind of all the earth more glorious."

Some—too many—may have lost the civilizational self-confidence needed to celebrate the Pilgrims. Just today, for

instance, the New York Times called this story a "myth" and a "caricature" in the food section, no less. Maybe the politically correct editors of the debunked 1619 Project are now responsible for pumpkin pie recipes at the Times as well.

But I, for one, still have the pride and confidence of our forebears. So here, today, I speak in the spirit of that cabin, and I reaffirm that old Compact. As we head into the week of Thanksgiving, I will be giving thanks this year in particular to "our Pilgrim Fathers" and the timeless lessons they bequeathed to our great Nation. For as Coolidge observed, "Plymouth Rock does not mark a beginning or an end. It marks a revelation of that which is without beginning and without end."

May God continue to bless this land and may He bless the memory of the Pilgrims of 1620. I extend my best wishes to you and to your family for a Thanksgiving as happy and peaceful as the First Thanksgiving.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MIZELLE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea," the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. HARRIS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 239 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Barrasso	Braun	Collins
Blackburn	Burr	Cornyn
Blunt	Capito	Cotton
Boozman	Cassidy	Cramer

Crapo	Lankford	Rounds
Cruz	Lee	Rubio
Daines	Loeffler	Sasse
Enzi	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Ernst	McSally	Shelby
Fischer	Moran	Sullivan
Graham	Murkowski	Thune
Hawley	Paul	Tillis
Hoeven	Perdue	Toomey
Hyde-Smith	Portman	Wicker
Inhofe	Risch	Young
Johnson	Roberts	
Kennedy	Romney	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	

NOT VOTING—10

Alexander	Harris	Udall
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gardner	Sanders	
Grassley	Scott (FL)	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Maryland.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

MAGNITSKY ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, earlier today, Senator WICKER and I participated in a call with our colleagues from Europe in regard to their efforts to pass a Global Magnitsky statute. I mention that because this month represents the 11th year anniversary of the tragic death of Sergei Magnitsky.

Sergei Magnitsky was a lawyer in Russia, representing a client when he discovered the largest tax fraud in modern Russian history—\$230 million. Many of the individuals who were involved in this corruption had ties with Russia's President, Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Magnitsky did what any lawyer is required to do, he reported the fraud that he discovered to the local authorities and asked for them to investigate the issue. Instead, Sergei Magnitsky was arrested. He was imprisoned without parole; he was beaten; he was tortured; and he died in jail without medical help in November of 2009.

There was no accountability for the perpetrators of this atrocity. In fact,

many of the perpetrators actually were promoted. We did something about it. As members of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, we recognized, in 1975, the countries that comprise the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including Russia, committed to basic human rights for their people, that their government would be honest, and that they would protect the rights of their citizens. The Helsinki Final Act gave every member state the right to question what other States were doing in compliance with the Helsinki Final Act ideals.

It is legitimate for us to question what Russia is doing in carrying out its commitment, so we did something about it. I introduced legislation known as the Magnitsky Act. I want you to know this was a bipartisan effort. My partner in the passage of the Magnitsky Act was the late Senator John McCain. My partner in passing the Global Magnitsky Act and the Magnitsky Act is my good friend ROGER WICKER, who is the chair of the Senate U.S. Helsinki Commission. We worked together to make sure that we passed these Magnitsky Acts.

What does it do? What it does is the country does not hold accountable those who violate basic global human rights of its citizens; we impose sanctions. Those sanctions prevent that individual who perpetrated these acts from visiting the United States through the issuance of a visa or participating in our banking system.

Why do we do this? Today, we heard from Mr. Kara-Murza, who is one of the activists on human rights in Russia who has been poisoned twice by the Russian Government. What he said about the mantra of the Kremlin is: They steal at home and spend abroad. They don't want their money in rubles; they want their money in dollars. So if we can prevent them from using our banking system, we can really make it hurt.

Let me tell you how important this is. It is not limited to Russia. We passed the Global Magnitsky law so it applies to all of the countries where they have violations of human rights.

If you want to know how important this statute is, it has been reported that when Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump met in their first summit, the first order of business that Mr. Putin raised with President Trump was: Can't we get rid of these Magnitsky sanctions? Believe me, they work. They deter bad actors around the world. It is a legislative initiative.

We talked today about the fact that there is one common ingredient in every country that has considered the Global Magnitsky laws; that is, the initiative that comes from the legislators. There is a natural reluctance among the bureaucrats not to burden themselves with additional problems in their bilateral relations with other countries, but we recognize that it is important for America, the leader of the democratic world, to speak up for

democratic principles. We passed the legislation. We didn't have the enthusiastic support of the administration, but we did it. We did it. And we wanted it to be a global standard that was clear to human rights violators, but we needed other countries to act.

I am pleased that other countries have followed the U.S. leadership. The UK, Canada, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania all have enacted similar Global Magnitsky bills. Currently, Japan and Australia are considering similar bills and legislation.

Today, we had a very positive conversation with the European Union, and they are considering the passage of a Global Magnitsky bill. This would add 27 countries to be covered under the Sergei Magnitsky law.

This is one of the, I think, leading moments for the U.S. Senate and Congress, where we showed leadership on behalf of speaking out for those otherwise who would not be heard. As a result of our action, I am convinced we saved many lives, and we made it clear that in our foreign policy, we will embed that in the principles that have made this Nation the great democratic Nation it is, the respect for universal human rights.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ASYA BRANCH

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise this afternoon, as I do, to commend an outstanding young American. In this case, a young Mississippian; namely, Miss Asya Branch, from Booneville, MS, who was recently crowned as Miss USA 2020.

For those of you from Michigan, take some pride. She was born in Michigan but moved to Mississippi at an early age and spent her childhood in Booneville, as I said. She graduated this year from my alma mater, the University of Mississippi, having studied broadcast journalism.

Miss Asya Branch has experienced dizzying success during the past 2 years. In 2018, Asya Branch won the title of Miss Mississippi under the Miss America Organization. The following year, she became the first African-American woman to win the other State title, Miss Mississippi USA. She is only the seventh person in history to hold both State titles: Miss Mississippi and Miss Mississippi USA. And now she is the first-ever Miss Mississippi USA to win the Miss USA crown.

Asya Branch has been competing in pageants since 2016, when she won her first preliminary title in the Miss Mis-

issippi competition. She went on to win Ole Miss's Parade of Beauties competition and numerous local titles. She has gained wide recognition because she is beautiful, well-spoken, and she is a gifted vocalist. But, also, there is a serious part of her platform and serious personal story of Asya's in overcoming adversity, and I admire that so much in Asya Branch. She speaks openly about her father's 10 years in the State prison, resulting in his absence for much of her upbringing. That difficult period shaped who Asya Branch is and gave her strength and a unique perspective on incarceration.

During the Mississippi pageant, Asya's platform was empowering children of incarcerated parents. Can you imagine the courage of a young woman taking that on as her platform? It enabled her to reach out to other children, encourage them that their lives do not have to be defined by their circumstances.

During her year as Miss Mississippi, she was part of a White House roundtable, where she discussed criminal justice and prison reform, much as we did here on the floor of the U.S. Senate. And the First Step Act—she discussed this act with President Trump and Vice President PENCE, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, and lawmakers, including Senator HYDE-SMITH and me.

She also started the Love Letters Program in which she donated stationery and stamps to inmates, allowing them to write to their loved ones. In her new role as Miss USA, she plans to expand Love Letters to a national level and continue advocating for criminal justice and prison reform.

You can see why I am so proud of Asya Branch and so impressed with her accomplishments. She has the honor of holding two State titles and now a national title. This speaks to her unique gifts, accomplishments, courage, and passion for bringing about constructive change to the world.

I commend Asya for her example of perseverance. She has made Mississippi proud, and I think she is going to make the United States proud as she moves forward next year to the Miss Universe pageant, where I am sure she will do well. I encourage all Americans to root for her next year, as we will certainly be doing at my house.

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, here it is November 18. It seems like the election was a few years ago. Time is flying

by, but there is still a lot of work to be done here in the 116th Congress.

I hope that our friends across the aisle will reconsider their objections to working with us on another COVID-19 relief bill. I know back home in Texas, many small businesses that received PPE loans are uncertain, for example, what the tax consequences are going to be associated with that. Many of them, for whom that was a lifeline, are running out of that lifeline due to the passage of time.

We also know we need to pass an appropriations bill before the December 11 deadline to both avoid a government shutdown and give our government agencies the ability to plan and operate with certainty.

Of course, perhaps most significantly, we need to pass a final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. The foremost obligation of the Federal Government is the peace and security for the American people. We do that by passing the defense authorization act and funding our military each year on an annual basis. This bill determines how we maintain our military bases, modernize our aircraft, and invest in the next generation of aircraft and weaponry.

Of course, we know that our adversaries—most notably, countries like China and Russia—are moving very quickly to modernize their military and their weaponry in a way that could jeopardize the balance or the deterrence of our current systems. It is very, very important.

This is also how we supply our servicemembers and their families with the money they need to provide for their families. It is how we take stock of the evolving threat landscape—things like hypersonic glide vehicles—and ensure our country is taking active steps to counter threats on the horizon.

The most important thing, I think, Ronald Reagan taught us or reminded us of is “peace through strength,” that weakness is actually a provocation to the bullies, tyrants, and dictators who will take advantage of any opportunity. It causes instability and perhaps even miscalculation and people taking risks that, ultimately, will lead to armed conflict. The best thing we can do to maintain the peace is make sure the United States of America remains the preeminent military force on the planet.

Of course, it is no secret that, in recent years, China has emerged as one of the greatest threats to world order. It is increasingly belligerent and well resourced and continues to demonstrate a lack of respect for basic human rights and dignities.

The challenge of China is they don't play by the rules. I know back when China became part of the World Trade Organization, there was a hope expressed that maybe by becoming part of the World Trade Organization, they could join the other rules-based economies and countries, but they have not. They continue to steal intellectual

property, and they continue to want to dominate the United States, both economically and militarily, in the long run.

The Chinese Communist Party has made no secret of its desire to flex its economic and political power throughout the world as evidenced by their Made in China 2025 Initiative. It seeks to advance Chinese dominance in high-tech manufacturing for everything from electric cars to advanced robotics to artificial intelligence to seemingly innocuous devices like jetways at airports.

One major component of this plan is semiconductor manufacturing, and China is making serious headway. Since 2000, China has gone from manufacturing zero chips to 16 percent of the global supply, and it plans to invest another \$1.4 trillion in the semiconductor technology.

Why is this important? Well, because these microcircuits that have gotten smaller and smaller and smaller and make up the working components in everything from iPhones to our weapons systems—these have become harder and harder to manufacture.

In fact, one of the things this COVID virus has taught is the vulnerability of our supply chains. Right now, one of the sole sources of the most sophisticated semiconductor that goes into everything from our iPhones to our national defense systems is manufactured overseas, primarily in Taiwan.

While China has upped its production of semiconductors dramatically and its investment, the U.S. has dropped to producing roughly a quarter of the world's semiconductors to only 12 percent. That is a big problem.

First is the obvious economic implications. Giving up a significant global share of manufacturing means missing out on thousands—indeed tens of thousands—of high-paying jobs that could be stationed right here at home.

It also ignores the benefits of a strong U.S. manufacturing supply chain to support products made by the United States and our trading partners. Our growing dependence on others, including China, for semiconductors also poses a serious national security risk.

As I said, these chips are everywhere. They are also critical components to our infrastructure, things like cell towers, hospital equipment, missile defense systems. Our most critical technologies rely on a product we are looking for a country overseas to supply, whether it is Taiwan or China or some other country.

Earlier this year, we, of course, experienced how dangerous that is. It is as simple as things like personal protective equipment. China has long been a major supplier of masks, gloves, and gowns, and other PPE used by our healthcare workers. That didn't seem to be a problem because they could always make it cheaper, but when the virus hit, we found out it was a serious problem.

By the time the virus began spreading to the U.S., China had been battling it for a number of weeks, maybe even months. So when it came time for American hospitals, clinics, and healthcare providers to beef up their supply of personal protective equipment, the supplies were already depleted or we were dependent on China to produce them.

Healthcare workers did what they could by reusing masks throughout an entire shift in order to conserve supplies. Hospitals were pleading with the general public to donate any unused personal protective equipment so their workforce could remain safe. We didn't reach that point because of lack of preparation, but because of our reliance on other countries, namely China, to produce that medical gear.

This has been a wake-up call, I think, for me and, I think, certainly many others about our supply chain vulnerabilities. It is a clear signal that we need to take action to secure other critical supply chains.

When it comes to semiconductor manufacturing, that is easier said than done. Building a new semiconductor foundry is a very, very expensive undertaking. It simply will not happen without a robust private-public partnership. We know our adversaries are making a big down payment on their own semiconductor manufacturing.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates that 21 major semiconductor firms across a number of countries received more than \$50 billion in government support between 2014 and 2018. This is not exactly a market that is going to depend purely on the private sector. It is going to require the Federal Government to step up if we are going to bring that manufacturing onshore and if we are going to reduce our vulnerabilities, both from an economic and national security perspective.

Some of the countries investing, though, in manufacturing these technologies are South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Ireland, Germany, and—yes, you guessed it—China. We have lost ground to our global competitors, and unless we take action, it is estimated that, by 2030, 83 percent of global semiconductor manufacturing will be in Asia—83 percent. We simply can't allow that to happen. The U.S. needs to make a strategic investment in semiconductor manufacturing to regain lost ground, and this year's National Defense Authorization Act includes the critical first step.

I introduced a bill, along with our colleague, our friend from Virginia, Senator WARNER, called the CHIPS for America Act, and a version of this bill was adopted as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. It had bipartisan support—a vote of 96 to 4. It will help restore American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing by creating a Federal incentive program through the Department of Commerce in order to encourage chip manufacturing here in the United States.

In short, this will help stimulate domestic advanced semiconductor manufacturing and boost both our national security and global competitiveness. It will enable us to bring the manufacturing of these critical devices back home and strengthen the supply chains for our military systems, our critical infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, and virtually every other industry you could name.

Senator WARNER and I have worked closely with Senator COTTON, of Arkansas, and with Senator SCHUMER, of New York, in drafting this bipartisan amendment. I am glad our colleagues in the House have approved a similar amendment to their legislation, and I am eager to see the final version in the conference report. When the NDAA makes its way to the President's desk, it will mark the 60th consecutive year in which Congress has passed such bipartisan legislation to fund, supply, and equip our Nation's military.

I appreciate the strong bipartisan support of Chairman INHOFE, of the Committee on Armed Services, and Ranking Member REED, and I am eager for this legislation to come to the floor for a final vote, but the next step is to secure funding for the programs to incentivize domestic semiconductor manufacturing. We have been working with the administration, particularly with Secretary Mnuchin, Secretary Ross, and Secretary Pompeo, who have identified this as a major vulnerability and have worked with us to try to close that gap. I have enjoyed working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that we provide full funding for this legislation, but we are not there yet.

This is the key to our long-term national security and economic competitiveness, and it is my top priority in the coming weeks as the Senate prepares to consider appropriations bills. A secure semiconductor supply chain will strengthen our national security, and our economy will reap countless benefits by bringing these manufacturing jobs back to the United States.

As we work to counter increasingly sophisticated adversaries around the world, passing the National Defense Authorization Act and funding these new programs could not be more important.

I yield the floor.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 864.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of J. Philip Calabrese, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 J. Philip Calabrese, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Jerry Moran, Lamar Alexander, Mike Braun, David Perdue.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. 835.

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 Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2025.

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 Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2025.

Mitch McConnell, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Michael B. Enzi, Todd Young, Lindsey Graham, Tim Scott, James E. Risch.

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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 650.

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 Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

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 Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, Michael B. Enzi, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Joni Ernst, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, Steve Daines.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations, Executive Calendar Nos. 856 and 369.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be

considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2022, and Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for the term of five years (New Position), en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed, en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar No. 908 and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, all en bloc.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(d):

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Brendan C. McPherson
Rear Adm. (1h) Douglas M. Schofield
Rear Adm. (1h) Andrew M. Sugimoto
Rear Adm. (1h) Richard V. Timme
Rear Adm. (1h) Todd C. Wiemers

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

*PN2233 COAST GUARD nominations (89) beginning STEVEN C. ACOSTA, and ending JESSICA S. WORST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2020.

*PN2272 COAST GUARD nominations (2) beginning CORINNA M. FLEISCHMANN, and ending KIMBERLY C. YOUNG-MCLEAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 30, 2020.

*PN2292 COAST GUARD nominations (204) beginning MICHAEL S. ADAMS, Jr., and ending ANDREW H. ZUCKERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the consideration of PN2074, PN2174, PN2075, and PN1704-2 en bloc; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that

no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

There being no objection, the committee was discharged.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

PN2074

The following named Career Member of the Foreign Service of the United States Agency for Global Media, Broadcasting Board of Governors, for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service to the class indicated:

Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Consular Officer and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:
Gunter E. Schwabe, of North Carolina.

PN2174

The following named Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:
Bergen Nichole Bassett, of Virginia;
Dillon M. Clancy, of Florida;
David J. McCrane, of Florida.

The following named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor:
Matthew Victor Cassetta, of Virginia;
David C. McFarland, of the District of Columbia;
James Patrick Merz, of Virginia;
Timothy L. Smith, of Texas.

The following named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, as a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Consular Officer and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:
Mark A. Sullo, of Virginia.

PN2075

The following named Members of the Foreign Service of the Departments of Commerce to be a Consular Officer and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:
Scott L. Anderson, of Texas;
Careylou S. Arun, of Maryland;
Randall E. Bussman, of Virginia;
John W. Cabeca, of California;
Ann E. Chaitovitz, of New York;
Santiago Davila, of California;
Jeffrey D. Dutton, of the District of Columbia;

Bruce J. Ellsworth, of Virginia;
Robert D. Gaines, of Arizona;
Robyn E. Garfield, of Maryland;
Bryan J. Goldfinger, of California;
John G. Haberstock, of New Jersey;
Frederick J. Helfrich, of Pennsylvania;
Cynthia C. Henderson, of Virginia;
Melissa A. Hill, of California;
Michael Imbrogna, of Massachusetts;
Christine M. Kelley, of Virginia;
Antonios Louloudakis, of Virginia;
Michael A. Marangell, of California;
Dorian S. Mazurkevich, of Pennsylvania;
Heather S. McLeod, of the District of Columbia;

Kolbjorn T. Nelson, of Minnesota;
Seth Oppenheim, of the District of Columbia;
Richard A. Pearson, of Massachusetts;
Craig R. Phildius, of Florida;
Daniel T. Pint, of New York;
Irwin H. Roberts, of North Carolina;
Adam S. Roth, of New Jersey;
Jennifer A. Shore, of Florida;

William J. Toerpe, of Alabama;
Christopher W. Wilken, of West Virginia;
Duncan F. Willson, of the District of Columbia;
Susan F. Wilson, of Pennsylvania;
Christopher JB. Wong, of the District of Columbia;
Conrad WP. Wong, of Virginia.

PN1704-2

Ordered, That the following nomination be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

The following named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor:
Aziz Y. Younes, of Texas.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 801, 877, 879, 880, 882, and 884.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Lisa S. Kenna, of Vermont, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru; Thomas Laszlo Vajda, of Arizona, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of Burma; Melanie Harris Higgins, of Georgia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Burundi; Jeanne Marie Maloney, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Eswatini; James Broward Story, of South Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and Michael A. McCarthy, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of

America to the Republic of Liberia, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MIRA BALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for six decades, my dear friend Mira Ball has been helping Kentucky families realize one of the cornerstones of the American dream: owning their own home. Earlier this year, Mira was honored for a lifetime of achievement in our Commonwealth with Leadership Kentucky's Flame of Excellence Award. Today, I would like to congratulate Mira for this latest recognition of her contributions to our home State.

With her late husband, Don, Mira built Ball Homes into a respected business helping improve the lives of Kentuckians for generations. Don led the sales, and Mira kept the books. Together, they made a premier team helping make home ownership a reality for families across the region. The organization was made better still as their children, Ray, Mike, and Lisa, took their own leadership roles. Today, the company builds over 1,000 high-quality homes each year.

Mira's contributions to Kentucky extend far beyond her entrepreneurial achievement. She is a trailblazing leader and philanthropist with special emphases on the health and education of our next generation. Saying she would only get involved in organizations where she could really make a difference, this former schoolteacher has helped steer the future of some of Kentucky's prominent institutions. In fact, Mira was the first woman to chair the boards of trustees for the University of Kentucky, Midway College, and the Lexington Chamber of Commerce.

In 2018, Mira made the single largest scholarship gift in UK's history of \$10 million to help Kentucky students access higher education and the opportunity for a better future. The scholarships focus on students from Nelson and Henderson Counties, Mira and Don's native homes, respectively. The gift is only one snapshot of years of philanthropy that will benefit the school and all who rely on it.

Across our Commonwealth, families and communities can see the results of Mira's work. Families living in homes built by the Ball have adapted this year, turning kitchen tables into of-

fices and classrooms. Students supported by Mira's philanthropy were given an extra leg up. Anyone who turns on Kentucky Educational Television, KET, or receives help from the United Way has benefited from her vision and immense generosity.

So, it is my privilege to join the chorus praising Mira's leadership in Kentucky. She has not only paved a remarkable path, but she is also helping new leaders find their own. On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I would like to congratulate Mira Ball for this award and wish her years of continued success in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Builders Journal recently published a profile on Mira Ball's career. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Kentucky Builders Journal, Summer 2020]

MIRA BALL HONORED FOR HER LIFE'S WORK

Earlier this year, the statewide leadership development program Leadership Kentucky awarded its annual Flame of Excellence Award to Lexington businesswoman Mira Ball. The award is given to an outstanding Kentuckian who "bravely goes before and lights the way for others." Ball has certainly led a life that fits that description. As a member of the home building community, she is a role model to future generations in areas of leadership, business management and community involvement and service.

While the Ball name is well known in the Lexington area, Ball and her late husband, Don, have both had impact across the state. The couple incorporated Ball Homes in 1959 and immediately focused on the first-time home buyer market with their first model home in the Cardinal Valley neighborhood off Versailles Road. Their goal was to build homes in a price range that Lexington city police and firefighters could afford. At the time, police and firefighters were required to live within city limits.

More than 60 years later, the company remains family owned and still prides itself on making home ownership a reality for those who never thought it possible.

"If you've got a heart for people, you want them to be able to have an affordable home that they can live in and enjoy," said Mira Ball. "You see what's happening with zoning and the availability of land, and you get very concerned about the fact that the people who are the ordinary workers can't afford to live there."

Ball Homes has built more homes all over Lexington as well as in the Louisville and Knoxville markets. Don was passionate about affordable housing throughout his career, and the Balls' daughter Lisa Ball Sharp shares her father's interest and has served on Lexington's Affordable Housing Task Force.

Ball is still involved in the business although the Balls' three children, Ray, Mike and Lisa, have been leading the company since the 1980s. Ray took over acquisition and development, Mike oversees construction management, and Lisa is in charge of property management and sale. Ball said that even as her husband let go of the day-to-day decision-making long ago, she stayed active in the business long after because "nobody wanted to do what I did." What Ball did was make sure the bottom line always added up.

ACCOUNTING FOR SUCCESS

Ball first took an interest in accounting and business while attending the University

of Kentucky, where she met her future husband and worked in the Placement Service office. Although she graduated with a teaching certificate and taught junior high school students for one year, Ball left teaching to stay home when her children were born. As the family and the building business grew, she became the bookkeeper and behind-the-scenes partner while her husband became the business's public face.

"Don was a good salesperson," said Ball. "He had the ideas. And I was the one who kept things straight."

She said that while it's important to be ready for new opportunities and challenges, good timing had a lot to do with their success. Ball Homes has also benefited from new ideas as her children began to lead. They expanded into new markets, developed new neighborhoods and formed a property management business within the company.

"There's a lot of interaction between Ray, Mike and Lisa. But they work well together," said Ball. "The building business is something that you can be very proud of; you're furnishing homes for people."

When asked how she had managed to raise children who wanted to follow into the family business and shared their parents' commitment to the community, Ball mentioned the example set by her and Don's parents.

"Our parents were really good examples for my children. Hard work was expected and something you should enjoy and helping other people was important. Some of that empathy came naturally to Don," said Ball. "I think you have to be sincere and live your life like you should and be a good example, but I also thank the Lord every day for my parents and what they gave me. It wasn't wealth but they had good values and that's what was more important."

"I'm sure too that having us both work in the business and talking about things in front of [our children] made them familiar with what went on in the building business, both the ups and downs. There have been times when we thought we'd never sell another house with interest rates at 18% and 19%. They were aware of that growing up and understood it. Don always understood the impact of high interest rates on affordability, and Ray really gets that too."

FOCUSED ON EDUCATION

Her husband is remembered for his efforts to aid the homeless and addicted across the state through his roles as state representative and service on the Kentucky Housing Corporation. Ball's own civic contributions have focused on health and education. She has served with a wide variety of organizations including the PTA, the American Cancer Society, the United Way, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, the Kentucky Historical Society, the Governor's Mansion Preservation Foundation, and the Kentucky Horse Park. In 1991, she became the first woman to serve as chairman of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. She was also the first woman elected to the Kentucky Utilities board of directors, the first woman chairman of the Midway College board of trustees, and the first woman to serve as chair of the University of Kentucky board of trustees. She was appointed to the State Economic Development Task Force and the Governor's Commission on Tax Policy. She continues to serve on the Endowment Board of Kentucky Educational Television.

"I think I came along at a time when a lot of organizations thought it's time for a woman. I wasn't going to get involved with any organization if I wasn't going to actually work on it," said Ball. "There are so many things in this world that you feel like you can't make a difference. But education

is the No. 1 thing that will change Kentuckians for the better. It's where you can really do more to help."

One of the problems Ball has tried to address has been lowering the attrition rate of returning students who can't keep up with tuition costs. In 2018, she gave the University of Kentucky \$10 million to establish a scholarship fund that will focus on students from Nelson County, where she grew up and Henderson County, where Don was raised. It will fund dozens of undergraduate and graduate scholarships in the two counties and surrounding areas, focused specifically on addressing unmet financial need.

IMPACT ON HBA MEMBERSHIP

While her efforts have been highly publicized in the world of higher learning, Ball recognizes the benefits of work experience and involvement in organizations to promote lifelong learning.

"My work experience at UK was as valuable as any classroom experiences I had," said Ball. "I think experience is a big educator, and sometimes you have to make your own. I enjoy learning about new things all the time. That's the reason I like KET so much."

The Balls were active members of the home builders association and were jointly named Builders of the Year by the Lexington HBA in 1992. Attending meetings like the International Builders Show was a source of ongoing learning for her.

"I used to go to those meetings, and there wasn't a time that I didn't come back with something valuable. I went to all the financial seminars, and I can still remember some of the speakers and what they said," she laughed.

Ball points to her upbringing and her Christian faith for prompting her to serve her community through the years. She talked about a young minister who influenced her to see all people as deserving of love and respect. As she describes how she felt when she visited the Hope Center and other drug and alcohol addiction recovery programs, Ball's compassion for those who struggle in her community is evident.

"You never visit those places without thinking how blessed you are," she said. "If you just go in and really talk to people, you get the idea that you've just got to help."

GEORGETOWN LAW'S "LAWYERS AS LEADERS" COURSE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there is no question that 2020 has been a year of challenges, difficulty, and concern. It is in these more challenging times that it is especially important to shine a light on those individuals and institutions that are doing good work, work that inspires the next generation of leaders to think bigger and create a brighter future. It is no surprise that Georgetown Law, where I earned my law degree, is doing precisely that, living up to its timeless motto: "Law is but the means, justice is the end."

This fall, Georgetown Law has offered a unique course entitled "Lawyers as Leaders" for the first time. Far from a staid black letter law class, this course is styled as a series of candid, introspective conversations between Georgetown Law Dean William M. Treanor and faculty members who have been prominent leaders in the law and public service. These conversations seek to confront law students with the

pressing issues of the day—the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustices, the fragility of our democracy's norms, to name a few—and give them a sense for what, as future attorneys, they can do to address them.

In a time of unprecedented uncertainty, the course is a reminder, as one enrolled student put it, "that there is hope." Lawyers as Leaders centers students in the values that inspired them to study the law and reminds them of their own agency to make measurable change. It is no wonder that over 300 students have enrolled in this course, the largest class enrollment in Georgetown Law's 150-year history. I hope this course is offered for many semesters to come.

I have often highlighted the achievements of Georgetown Law both on and off the Senate floor. The education I received there was central to my decision to dedicate my career to public service. It is exactly courses like Lawyers as Leaders that will help encourage this and future classes of Georgetown Law students to pursue their passions as attorneys. Georgetown Law should be commended for offering this course and reminding students that the law is most exciting and transformative when it is viewed not just as a career, but as a calling.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Washington Post, published on November 6, 2020, titled "Most popular course ever at Georgetown Law? How to fight for justice," be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 6, 2020]

MOST POPULAR COURSE EVER AT GEORGETOWN LAW? HOW TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

(By Susan Sruluga)

In her third year of law school, Maxine Walters expected to have everything in place: Her job locked in, her career path mapped out.

Then the pandemic hit, and economic uncertainty, and protests erupted over racial justice and tensions flared over the presidential election and transition. Her summer job with a firm evaporated, and with it the hoped-for offer of a permanent position by the time classes resumed for the fall.

But her school year began with an unusual class—one created to mark Georgetown University Law Center's 150th anniversary and shaped by the realities of 2020—that has, for many students, upended their ideas about rigid timelines for success, their expectations and even their aspirations.

Instead of a traditional course focused on an area of law such as contracts or torts, the school's leaders crafted a more personal, broad-ranging look at leadership. It was a recognition that the tumultuous times are forcing a reckoning, and leaving many students yearning to have an impact.

Clearly, they touched a nerve: More than 300 upper-level students signed up for "Lawyers as Leaders," the largest enrollment for a course in the history of Georgetown Law.

"This is definitely a time where the ground is moving," said Max Lesser, a 28-year-old student from New Jersey. "Everyone realizes that the old paradigms of politics and justice are kind of breaking. . . . Lawyers have a real role to play in what path we take."

For the online course, students submit questions about assigned readings and then listen to a conversation between Georgetown Law Dean William M. Treanor and a faculty member. He asks them to talk about how to move forward to confront "the great issues of this terrible time."

"This is a time when we're all grappling with so many crises" and profound challenges and losses, he said.

The conversations held each Sunday—now available to all on the school's anniversary website—have been topical, even urgent. Students have heard from Lawrence Gostin about health-care policy during the pandemic, such as vaccine distribution and whether the government should mandate mask-wearing and social distancing.

Neal Katyal, who has argued more than 40 cases before the Supreme Court, spoke about the contested 2000 election, in which he was co-counsel to Democratic candidate Al Gore, and about electoral integrity this year. Randy Barnett, a libertarian and self-described contrarian, talked about the constitutionality of health policy, recent Supreme Court nominees and the importance of seeking out opposing viewpoints. And Rosa Brooks talked about her work examining whether norms will hold fast in the aftermath of this contentious election, or whether the country could face a constitutional crisis.

The conversations have been challenging, insightful, sometimes funny and surprisingly vulnerable. Gostin spoke of his difficult childhood, and how that had helped shape the optimistic outlook he's known for. He shared his tips for the best way to make popcorn.

Katyal told students to do something that was uncomfortable for them, especially early in their careers. He said he had recently taken rap improv classes to improve his ability to think on his feet, and found it terrifying.

Katyal also shared how his father faced discrimination and was unfairly fired, but had his dignity restored by a civil case, inspiring Katyal to go to law school. He told how he always asked his children's advice the night before a Supreme Court case, and shared some of their tips on how to stay calm when facing the justices. (Once: "Think of a cute pig.")

This is a time when shared challenges make people more comfortable talking about vulnerabilities, Treanor said. "I don't think we would have these same conversations if we had this class two years ago."

Hillary Sale, an associate dean and professor who helped design the class, agreed. The stress of the times is making people introspective and reflective, she said, "in ways that are probably really good, and probably wouldn't happen without that outside pressure."

Paul Butler, a former federal prosecutor, challenged students to rethink the justice system, which he argues is not weakened by a few racist bad-apple police officers, but is "broke on purpose" and working the way it was designed to work.

Butler told of his searing experience decades ago when he was arrested while he was a prosecutor on a case accusing a U.S. senator of corruption. As he wrote in his book "Let's Get Free," Butler was charged with simple assault after a neighbor falsely accused him of pushing her after a dispute over a parking space. Police officers cursed at him. At the courthouse, he was led, handcuffed, through the inmates' entrance—when, as a prosecutor, he normally could breeze through the main entrance without needing to go through a metal detector.

At his trial, he said, he listened to a police officer lie on the stand. After he was acquitted, he felt the weight of how easily the false

accusation could have destroyed him, if not for the skill of his attorney.

A Yale- and Harvard-educated prosecutor, Butler had once felt different from the Black men he prosecuted, he told *The Washington Post*. But, he said, “I certainly wasn’t different in the way police responded to me.”

He wanted students to think about the inevitable setbacks and traumatic experiences they would face, and how they would confront those with integrity. “The main thing I wanted students to think about,” Butler said, “is justice.”

For Walters, a 23-year-old Black student from Mobile, Ala., the leadership class initially sounded like a welcome break from typical law classes—in which professors grill students with tough questions—during a busy fall when she is also applying for jobs. But Walters, who is president of the Georgetown Law Black Law Students Association, has been struck by a number of the conversations, including Butler’s.

“It has been inspiring to have this class,” Walters said.

As faculty reflect in the class on their own life choices, the odd zigs and zags of their careers, the abject failures that turned out to be gifts and the pinnacles that unexpectedly fell flat, the stories resonated with other students confronting their own imminent decisions.

People are definitely more stressed about careers this fall, said Luke Bunting, a student from Indiana who has worked for Republican members of Congress and is now in his second year at Georgetown Law. He hopes to work for a firm and make an impact, and hearing from people with such different backgrounds and approaches made him more confident that was possible, he said.

Kristin Ewing, a student from Nebraska by way of a musical-theater career in New York, gained an interest in health-care policy when she saw how performers were affected by their lack of insurance. She said it was reassuring to hear professors talk about career pivots.

Rujuta Nandgaonkar, also interested in health policy—an inclination cemented by the pandemic, she said—was struck by Barnett’s advice to surround yourself with people who disagree with you, and an idea several people shared about getting past the inevitable bumps in the road. “Those are important lessons for these times,” she said.

“This is not the greatest time—but there is hope,” Nandgaonkar said. “That’s the string that runs through it.”

Lesser, a high school teacher for four years before law school, isn’t sure what he wants to do after he graduates. But he is considering options that tie into his interests in democracy and criminal justice reform, such as working in a prosecutor’s office, judiciary committees in Congress or for the military.

After hearing Brooks talk, Lesser said, “her lecture reinforced that having a functional modern democracy is a precious thing, and it can get lost easily if people aren’t willing to perfect it.”

The class has been grounding, Lesser said. “It reminds you of why you’re doing this. That’s important, especially when our country is being tested, our field is being tested. You have to reconnect to the values” that brought people to study the law, he said.

Walters had gravitated during law school to apply to firms because she was worried about paying off student loans. But after a summer of protests following George Floyd’s killing in police custody, she witnessed people paint messages about defunding the police near the White House, and was struck by the role public defenders were playing in the community.

The new economic uncertainty and the idealism reinforced by the class reaffirmed

her original commitment to go back to the South—where she grew up not seeing Black lawyers, she said—and work as a public defender.

“I’m kind of grateful to be able to do what I’m passionate about,” Walters said. “I think it would be great to go back there and try to make it the best place it could be.”

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 225, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Ray Knepp II, to be a United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

It was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 226, on the nomination of James Ray Knepp II, to be a United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

ETHIOPIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to call upon the administration to take urgent diplomatic action to address the escalating conflict in Ethiopia, a country in the midst of what many in the international community, including myself, had hoped would be a historic political transition to democracy. Instead the country is sliding into civil war. Unless the international community acts quickly to forestall further violence, I fear that bloody and protracted conflict is unavoidable.

Ethiopians have long aspired to participate in a democratic system of government. For years, their leaders let them down, but in 2018, things appeared to change when in response to peaceful popular protests centered in Ethiopia’s Oromo and Amhara regions, Ethiopia’s ruling party elevated Abiy Ahmed to Prime Minister. Prime Minister Abiy undertook dramatic political reform in the first year of his administration, releasing thousands of political prisoners, inviting exiled opposition groups back home, and allowing the press to freely operate. Repressive laws like the Charities and Societies and Anti-Terrorism proclamations, which had long been used to stifle political dissent, were revised and replaced. The new government committed itself to free and fair elections and, for the first time in Ethiopia’s history, introduced a gender-balanced Cabinet. Many Ethiopians and much of the international community rightly celebrated these achievements and looked to further democratic progress. Abiy himself was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

Yet transitions from autocratic rule to democracy are rarely seamless, and Ethiopia’s transition is no exception. The journey to democracy has been beset by the proliferation of ethnically motivated violence across the country. In 2018, IOM reported that Ethiopia re-

corded the third highest number of new ID P’s anywhere in the world, fueled by ethnic violence and displacement in Gedeo and West Guji zones, and violence has continued. In June 2019, rogue regional security forces assassinated the president of Amhara region and the head of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, and in June 2020, the murder of popular Oromo singer Hachalu Hundessa triggered violence that killed at least 239 people. Sadly, Ethiopians of all ethnic and religious backgrounds have been victims of this endless cycle of senseless violence.

To be clear, there are some who have taken advantage of new-found freedoms to threaten or use violence to achieve political ends, engage in hate speech, and incite broader conflict. Such behavior is inconsistent with democratic practice and has further exacerbated the country’s ethnic and political divisions in a profoundly damaging way. Ethiopian authorities have a responsibility to protect their citizens by holding the perpetrators and purveyors of such actions accountable through a transparent, credible legal process.

Yet the government’s response to these challenges has only complicated matters. In May 2020, a report from Amnesty International chronicled a long list of abuses committed by Ethiopia’s security forces since the transition began, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary arrest. The government has engaged in a troubling crackdown on political opposition, media organizations, and civil society, particularly in the wake of Hachalu Hundessa’s death. There are growing fears that state institutions are being leveraged by the ruling party to unfairly consolidate the current government’s power, including through weaponizing law enforcement and the judicial process to attack government critics. Under these conditions, it is unlikely that Ethiopia’s next general elections can be anything approaching credible, exacerbating an already volatile political situation.

Against the backdrop of a transition in jeopardy, violence between the federal government and political leaders of the Tigray region is escalating. Reports suggest that hundreds have already died in clashes between government and regional forces. I am particularly horrified by evidence of a civilian massacre in Mai-Kadra. I condemn this act and all attacks on civilians in the strongest term, and call for a thorough and transparent investigation by a credible, neutral, independent body. Those who attack civilians must be held accountable in accordance with the rule of law. I am also concerned by reports of civilian deaths as a result of federal government airstrikes, mass displacement, and discrimination and arrests based on ethnic profiling. Authorities in Tigray have confirmed that their forces fired rockets into the capital of a neighboring country, Eritrea.

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" Shuttters 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 Shuttters Sundin will complete her military service in November after more than 12 years of honorable service.

A native of Muskegon, MI, Major Shuttters 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 Shuttters 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 Shuttters 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 Shuttters 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 Shutter 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2466. An act to extend the State Opioid Response Grants program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2914. An act to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4611. An act to modify permitting requirements with respect to the discharge of any pollutant from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4712. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4806. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4812. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5668. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to modernize the labeling of certain generic drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5855. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program supporting trauma center violence intervention and violence prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5919. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum to provide the National Children's Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5953. An act to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6435. An act to direct the Federal Trade Commission to develop and disseminate information to the public about scams related to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6624. An act to support supply chain innovation and multilateral security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 7310. An act to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the modernization of the information technology systems of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 8121. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 8266. An act to modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, relating to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 8326. An act to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to require eligible recipients of certain grants to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy that directly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable, quality child care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 8408. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to require certain safety standards relating to aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

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

H.R. 4611. An act to modify permitting requirements with respect to the discharge of any pollutant from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4712. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4806. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4812. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5668. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to modernize the labeling of certain generic drugs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5855. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program supporting trauma center violence intervention and violence prevention programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5919. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum to provide the National Children's Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5953. An act to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6096. An act to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

H.R. 6435. An act to direct the Federal Trade Commission to develop and disseminate information to the public about scams related to COVID-19, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6624. An act to support supply chain innovation and multilateral security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7310. An act to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the modernization of the information technology systems of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8121. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States.

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H.R. 8408. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to require certain safety standards relating to aircraft, and for other purposes.

former centers of excellence, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6096. An act to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

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-5904. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Integrity" (RIN0584-AE80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5905. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tolerance Crop Grouping Program V" (FRL No. 10015-10-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5906. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5907. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to Burundi; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5908. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5909. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Congress on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5910. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders" (RIN1557-AE97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5911. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule - Certain Emergency Facilities in the Regulatory Capital Rule and the Liquidity Coverage Ratio Rule" (RIN3064-AF41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5912. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing Executive Order 13891; Promoting the Rule of Law through Improved Agency Guidance" (RIN2501-AD93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5913. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Manufactured Housing Program: Minimum Payments to the Senate" (RIN2502-AJ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5914. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5915. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5916. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5917. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Non-Energy Solid Leasable Minerals Royalty Rate Reduction Process" (RIN1004-AE58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5918. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits" (FRL No. 10016-28-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5919. A communication from the Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (*Canis Lupus*) From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BD60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5920. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: City of Philadelphia and District of Columbia" (FRL No. 10016-45-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5921. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Blue Ridge Paper SO₂ Emission Limits" (FRL No. 10016-41-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5922. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Idaho; Incorporation by Reference Updates and Rule Revisions" (FRL No. 10016-18-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5923. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report (AFR) for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5924. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2020 Annual Financial Report (AFR); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5925. A communication from the Treasurer of the National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Inspector General Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5926. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Crotonyl Fentanyl in Schedule I" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-633)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5927. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanding Consumers' Video Navigation Choices; Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices" ((MB Docket No. 16-42) (FCC 20-124)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5928. A communication from the Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of State and Local Governments' Obligation to Approve Certain Wireless Facility Modification Requests Under Section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act of 2012" ((WT Docket No. 19-250) (FCC 20-153)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5929. A communication from the Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "All-Digital AM Broadcasting; Revitalization of the AM Radio Service" ((MB Docket No. 19-311) (FCC 20-154)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Capt. Michael H. Day and ending with Capt. Edward M. St. Pierre, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2020.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (1h) Brendan C. McPherson and ending with Rear Adm. (1h) Todd C. Wiemers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 30, 2020.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Steven C. Acosta and ending with Jessica S. Worst, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2020.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Corinna M. Fleischmann and ending with Kimberly C. Young-McClear, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 30, 2020.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Michael S. Adams, Jr. and ending with Andrew H. Zuckerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 20, 2020.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Mark C. Christie, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2025.

*Allison Clements, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2024.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. MORAN:

S. 4905. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 4906. A bill to establish a portal and database to receive and maintain information regarding blocked railroad-highway

grade crossings and to require the Secretary of Transportation to evaluate the requirements of the railway-highway crossings program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JONES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KING, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 4907. A bill to nullify Executive Order 13957, entitled "Creating Schedule F In The Excepted Service"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4908. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for taxpayers who remove lead-based hazards; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4909. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 4910. A bill to adjust the regulation of certain grants awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs during a covered public health emergency to serve homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 4911. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for compensation for injuries or sickness to encompass posttraumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 4912. A bill to amend the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 to require Federal agencies to obtain exemptions from certain cybersecurity requirements in order to avoid compliance with those requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 4913. A bill to require the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Highway Administration to provide recommendations for reducing the number of very rural highway-rail grade crossing collisions, to authorize a public outreach and educational program to reduce such collisions, and to authorize grants to improve grade crossing safety; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4914. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program for transportation projects to improve Tribal health, well-being, and youth safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4915. A bill to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 4916. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to divert certain parents of minor children, expectant parents, and other caregivers from incarceration and into comprehensive programs providing resources, services, and training to those individuals and their families; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 4917. A bill to amend the CARES Act to support States and local educational agencies in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic so that all students, especially historically underserved students, are provided with a safe, healthy, equitable, and excellent education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4918. A bill to transfer antitrust enforcement functions from the Federal Trade Commission to the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4919. A bill to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the potential benefits on population health outcomes of incorporating into the Federal legislative process tools that measure the impacts of proposed legislation (including in areas outside of health care) on health and health disparities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 4920. A bill to improve the cybersecurity of small organizations with respect to teleworking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 4921. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for traveling expenses for Federal disaster relief workers away from home for more than 1 year; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4922. A bill to expand and enhance programs and activities of the Department of Defense for prevention of and response to domestic violence and child abuse and neglect among military families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S.J. Res. 77. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S.J. Res. 78. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S.J. Res. 79. A joint resolution providing congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and

services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S.J. Res. 80. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services; 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 Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER):

S. Res. 777. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the need for common sense solutions to improve health care delivery and affordability for all people of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 778. A resolution recognizing Inter-scholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 15, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 779. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 327

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 910

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1153

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1153, a bill to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

S. 1311

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1311, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2315, a bill to amend section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, to clarify the inclusion of subcontractors and subgrantees for whistleblower protection.

S. 2353

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2353, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 2741

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2741, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2975

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2975, a bill to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in western waters, and for other purposes.

S. 3089

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3089, a bill to improve the construction and leasing of medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3587

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3587, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3612

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3612, a bill to clarify for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that receipt of coronavirus assistance does not affect the tax treatment of ordinary business expenses.

S. 3761

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3761, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans service organizations and recognized agents and attorneys opportunities to review Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating determinations before they are finalized, and for other purposes.

S. 3986

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3986, a bill to approve certain advanced biofuel registrations, to require the consideration of certain advanced biofuel pathways, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 4110

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4110, a bill to designate residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern, and for other purposes.

S. 4157

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4157, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to expand the authority of the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center, and for other purposes.

S. 4347

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from

Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4347, a bill to establish a Coronavirus Rapid Response Federal Labor-Management Task Force, and for other purposes.

S. 4375

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4375, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 4380

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4380, a bill to provide redress to the employees of Air America.

S. 4426

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4426, a bill to establish an Office of Subnational Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

S. 4572

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4572, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins, and for other purposes.

S. 4574

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 4574, a bill to establish a demonstration program to provide integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease, and for other purposes.

S. 4860

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4860, a bill to exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 4874

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4874, a bill to improve the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations' Visa Security Program, and for other purposes.

S. 4898

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4898, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period during which States, Indian Tribes, and local governments may use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

S. RES. 760

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 760, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the atrocities perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China against Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region constitutes genocide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4914. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program for transportation projects to improve Tribal health, well-being, and youth safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I today I am introducing legislation that aims to reduce traffic-related pedestrian fatalities in Native American communities while also improving public health and quality of life.

First, let's be clear. Everyone in this country deserves reliable options to travel safely from one place to another. Everyone deserves roads that connect us to each other and expand our horizons. But the sad truth is that not everyone in this country has safe, reliable roads that foster connections and expand horizons. That is especially true in Native American communities.

The adverse statistics surrounding the safety and health of Indigenous peoples are staggering. Vehicle-related unintentional injury is the No. 1 cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives aged 1 through 44. It is also the third overall cause of death for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, of any age or gender.

While unsafe roadways put lives at risk, inadequate or unreliable transportation options create obstacles for everyday life, making it more difficult to simply access healthy groceries, schools, quality health care, emergency services and economic opportunities. Immobility for individuals within Indian Country reinforces barriers to education, quality healthcare, and economic opportunity.

Meanwhile, Native American communities face disproportionately higher prevalence of diabetes and other heart disease. In fact, American Indian and Alaska Natives are more than twice more likely than non-Hispanic White Americans to die from diabetes. Cardiovascular disease is the primary cause of mortalities for Native Americans under the age of 65. While exercise can help to lower the risks associated with chronic heart disease, throughout Indian Country, there are few safe options for walking, running and bicycling.

The sad truth is that decades of Federal underinvestment in transportation infrastructure has contributed to disproportionately higher rates of road traffic fatalities and poor public health outcomes in Indian Country. Unsafe, unreliable and inadequate transportation infrastructure is exacerbating a public safety crisis, worsening public health, and degrading quality of life.

Investments in infrastructure that improve safety and expand opportunity for nonmotorized forms of transportation—such as sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, and pedestrian and bicycle signals—can help to prevent more road traffic fatalities and also combat the prevalence of chronic health disparities that exist throughout Native American communities. To that end, the Promoting Access to Tribal Health, Wellbeing and Youth Safety Act would create a new grant program at the U.S. Department of Transportation to dedicate new resources for pedestrian-related infrastructure and improve pedestrian infrastructure throughout Indian Country. The legislation will also authorize \$25 million annually for these critical projects.

By improving pedestrian infrastructure across Tribal communities, we can save lives while improving health outcomes and quality of life in Tribal communities.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator TESTER, Senator HEINRICH, and Senator WARREN, for joining me to introduce this legislation. As we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month, I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue. Together we can improve the safety and health of Indigenous peoples across the Nation.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4915. A bill to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act. This legislation would formally establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative—or SVI—within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, DOJ. While the SVI was created in 2015 as an initiative within the DOJ, this legislation is needed to give the initiative authorization to protect the legal interests of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. I thank Representative ESCOBAR and Representative TAYLOR for introducing this important legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our Nation owes a tremendous debt to our servicemembers, veterans, and military families for the sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms. Deployment can seriously compromise a servicemember's ability to meet obligations back home and protect their legal interests. Servicemembers and

their families have been charged unlawful lease termination fees when they receive permanent change of station or deployment orders. While deployed overseas, some have been denied voting rights, while others have had their property unlawfully sold. Members of the Reserve forces and the National Guard have been unjustly discriminated against and denied employment because of their military service. Servicemembers, veterans, and their families continue to be targeted by financial scams and fraud schemes. They deserve better than this, and we must ensure that our government protects their civil rights during deployment, transition back home, and as they settle into their civilian lives.

The DOJ recognized that, while there are laws on the books to protect servicemembers, veterans, and their families, more is needed to be done by the Federal Government to improve education about what those laws are and what rights they protect and to increase Federal enforcement actions to ensure those rights are protected. To that end, the DOJ announced the creation of the SVI to further its efforts to enforce statutes that protect the civil rights of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The SVI works closely with the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Judge Advocate General offices at military installations to educate servicemembers, veterans, and military families about their rights and how to report abuse. It also serves as a resource for anyone looking to obtain legal assistance and legal practitioners seeking information.

Through the work of the SVI, the Department of Justice has brought a number of successful claims, including one against the city and county of Honolulu in February 2018 for illegally auctioning cars belonging to servicemembers. DOJ launched an investigation into the city's actions after receiving information from a military legal assistance officer and two Navy legal assistance attorneys that Honolulu had on at least three occasions failed to obtain court orders before auctioning cars belonging to servicemembers while those servicemembers were deployed aboard U.S. Navy ships. The city had violated the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, SCRA, by denying these servicemembers their right to obtain a court's review of whether the auction of their vehicles should be delayed or adjusted to account for their military service. The settlement that DOJ reached with Honolulu mandated that the city ensure servicemembers receive notice that their car has been taken into custody and that the city obtain a court order or SCRA waiver prior to auctioning a car owned by an Active Duty servicemember.

The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act recognizes the work this initiative has carried out on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, and mili-

tary families in Hawaii and across the Nation by making it permanent within the DOJ. This bill also tasks the initiative with serving as legal and policy advisor to the Attorney General, and liaison between the DOJ and military departments. The SVI is further tasked with coordinating prosecution of fraud that targets servicemembers and their families and enforcing Federal laws to protect servicemembers and veterans.

I call on my colleagues in the Senate to support the DOJ's efforts to defend the rights of those who protect our country by swiftly passing the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act during the 116th Congress.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 777—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE NEED FOR COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY AND AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 777

Whereas the public health emergency that the United States is currently facing has highlighted the need for common sense solutions to improve health care delivery and affordability;

Whereas Congress has acted quickly to protect health care for the people of the United States in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, including expanding access to telehealth, providing coverage for COVID-19 tests and vaccines, and supporting health care providers;

Whereas health insurance premiums increased by nearly 105 percent between 2013 and 2017, thereby making health care coverage both unaffordable and inaccessible for many people of the United States; and

Whereas nearly 134 rural hospitals have closed their doors since 2010 and the public health emergency has exacerbated the rural health crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that all people of the United States should have access to health care coverage with—

(1) protections if they have pre-existing medical conditions, including—

(A) guarantees that no citizen of the United States can be denied health insurance coverage as a result of a previous illness or health status;

(B) guarantees that no citizen of the United States can be charged a higher premium or cost sharing as a result of a previous illness or health status; and

(C) access to health care to ensure that the people of the United States with pre-existing medical conditions can afford to receive their care;

(2) lower costs of prescription drugs and devices, which can be accomplished by—

(A) cutting red tape in the regulatory process to bring new drugs and devices to market more rapidly;

(B) lowering prices through enhanced competition by reforming outdated and archaic patent and trademark laws;

(C) ensuring transparency in the drug supply chain;

(D) incentivizing domestic manufacturing and ending drug shortages; and

(E) promoting policies that ensure the people of the United States are not solely responsible for financing the biopharmaceutical innovation that the world depends on;

(3) lower insurance premiums through increased choice and competition, including through—

(A) the availability of transparent information related to the price of health insurance premiums and health care procedures so patients can make informed decisions about their care;

(B) access to association health plans, which have led to average premium decreases of up to 29 percent for small business owners;

(C) State flexibility to do what is best for communities in that State, which in some cases has lowered health insurance premiums up to 43 percent;

(D) the establishment of tax-free personal health management accounts to empower patients to afford and personalize their own health care arrangements; and

(E) expanded access to more doctors and specialists for veterans, those struggling with mental illness, and those who live in rural areas;

(4) protections from surprise medical bills, including holding a patient harmless from surprise medical bills and making sure patients receive bills in a timely way; and

(5) safeguards from costly defensive medicine in the health care system, that reflect medical malpractice reform that addresses the additional costs in the medical system that do not improve quality of care.

SENATE RESOLUTION 778—RECOGNIZING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS' DAY ON DECEMBER 15, 2020

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 778

Whereas school athletic programs develop young people physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally through the life lessons learned through participation and competition;

Whereas interscholastic athletic participation is an integral part of a student's educational experience and enhances the learning process;

Whereas athletic administrators are committed to developing and maintaining comprehensive education-based athletic programs which seek the highest development of all student athletes;

Whereas athletic administrators fulfill professional responsibilities with honesty, integrity, commitment to equity, and fairness;

Whereas athletic administrators preserve, enhance, and promote the educational values of athletics in our schools through professional growth in the areas of education, leadership, and service;

Whereas athletic administrators embody high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct and encourage coaching staffs, student-athletes, and community members to commit to these high standards as well;

Whereas during the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever, we need school leaders, including athletic administrators, who prepare, plan, and endeavor to secure student safety and well-being;

Whereas during the COVID-19 pandemic, athletic administrators have been at the forefront of overseeing their secondary school educational programs, as re-opening requires wisdom in preparation, adaptation, change, and relearning to be shared with other school officials; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of athletic administrators and interscholastic athletics during a critical moment in our Nation's history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition of Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 15, 2020;

(2) commends athletic administrators for their commitment and leadership provided to student-athletes at the secondary school level, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(3) commends the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as the leading organization that prepares those who lead secondary school athletics throughout the country, providing education, compassion, and preparation within the profession.

SENATE RESOLUTION 779—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 779

Whereas, from November 1, 2020, through November 30, 2020, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimates that, in 2019, there were 6,945,552 individuals of American Indian and Alaska Native descent in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed the support of the United States of Tribal self-governance and self-determination and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—

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

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

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

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

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

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

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

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art;

Whereas Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2020 as "National Native American Heritage Month";

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as "Native American Heritage Day" in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

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

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I have 8 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., in room

G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The committee will hold an executive session.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. The purpose of the business meeting is to consider pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2020, at 10 a.m., in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 18 at 10 a.m., in room 301, Russell Senate Office Building, in order to conduct a hearing to consider the following nominations: Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission; Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission; and Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., in room SVC-217 in the U.S. Capitol Building to hold a briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on pending legislation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 3 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Modernizing Federal Telework: Moving Forward Using the Lessons Learned During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

THE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following calendar bills en bloc: Calendar Nos. 441, 443, 445 through 451, 494 through 497, 532, and 534.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table all en bloc.

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

SPECIALIST MATTHEW R. TURCOTTE POST OFFICE

A bill (S. 2847) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2847

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST MATTHEW R. TURCOTTE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office".

EINAR 'SARGE' H. INGMAN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (S. 3257) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the "Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3257

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

SECTION 1. EINAR "SARGE" H. INGMAN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the "Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building".

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL R. DAVIDSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 1833) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, New York, as the "Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

STAFF SERGEANT DYLAN ELCHIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 3207) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the "Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PERMITTING THE SCIPIO A. JONES POST OFFICE IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO ACCEPT AND DISPLAY A PORTRAIT OF SCIPIO A. JONES

A bill (H.R. 3317) to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PAUL EATON POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 3329) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the "Paul Eaton Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MOTHER FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 4794) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JULIUS L. CHAMBERS CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 4981) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

WALTER B. JONES, JR. POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 5037) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service

located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the "Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUDIE MURPHY POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (S. 3461) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, as the "Audie Murphy Post Office Building," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3461

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

SECTION 1. AUDIE MURPHY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Audie Murphy Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Audie Murphy Post Office Building".

RALPH HALL POST OFFICE

A bill (S. 3462) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, as the "Ralph Hall Post Office," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3462

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

SECTION 1. RALPH HALL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Ralph Hall Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ralph Hall Post Office".

OPHA MAY JOHNSON POST OFFICE

A bill (S. 3839) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2719 South Webster Street in Kokomo, Indiana, as the "Opha May Johnson Post Office," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3839

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

SECTION 1. OPHA MAY JOHNSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2719 South Webster Street in Kokomo, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Opha May Johnson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Opha May Johnson Post Office”.

JOSEPH G. DEMLER POST OFFICE

A bill (S. 4126) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, as the “Joseph G. Demler Post Office,” was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4126

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH G. DEMLER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the “Joseph G. Demler Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Joseph G. Demler Post Office”.

ERNEST ‘ERNIE’ T. PYLE POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 4734) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the “Ernest ‘Ernie’ T. Pyle Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DR. C.O. SIMPKINS, SR., POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 5384) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Crosby Street in Mansfield, Louisiana, as the “Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SENIORS FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 418, S. 512.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 512) to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

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

S. 512

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Seniors Fraud Prevention Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRAUD TARGETING SENIORS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY OFFICE.—The Federal Trade Commission shall establish an office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection for the purpose of advising the Commission on the prevention of fraud targeting seniors and to assist the Commission with the following:

(1) OVERSIGHT.—The advisory office shall monitor the market for mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and recorded message telephone call (hereinafter referred to as “robocall”) fraud targeting seniors and shall coordinate with other relevant agencies regarding the requirements of this section.

(2) CONSUMER EDUCATION.—The Commission through the advisory office shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service, and other relevant agencies—

(A) disseminate to seniors and families and caregivers of seniors general information on mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud targeting seniors, including descriptions of the most common fraud schemes;

(B) disseminate to seniors and families and caregivers of seniors information on reporting complaints of fraud targeting seniors either to the national toll-free telephone number established by the Commission for reporting such complaints, or to the Consumer Sentinel Network, operated by the Commission, where such complaints will become immediately available to appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the attorneys general of the States;

(C) in response to a specific request about a particular entity or individual, provide publically available information of enforcement action taken by the Commission for mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud against such entity; and

(D) maintain a website to serve as a resource for information for seniors and families and caregivers of seniors regarding mail, television, internet, telemarketing, robocall, and other identified fraud targeting seniors.

(3) COMPLAINTS.—The Commission through the advisory office shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, establish procedures to—

(A) log and acknowledge the receipt of complaints by individuals who believe they have been a victim of mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud in the Consumer Sentinel Network, and shall make those complaints immediately available to Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities; and

(B) provide to individuals described in subparagraph (A), and to any other persons, specific and general information on mail, television, internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud, including descriptions of the most common schemes using such methods of communication.

(b) COMMENCEMENT.—The Commission shall commence carrying out the requirements of this section not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

IDENTIFYING OUTPUTS OF GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of Calendar No. 580, S. 2904.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2904) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act” or the “IOGAN Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Gaps currently exist on the underlying research needed to develop tools that detect videos, audio files, or photos that have manipulated or synthesized content, including those generated by generative adversarial networks. Research on digital forensics is also needed to identify, preserve, recover, and analyze the provenance of digital artifacts.

(2) The National Science Foundation’s focus to support research in artificial intelligence through computer and information science and engineering, cognitive science and psychology, economics and game theory, control theory, linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy, is building a better understanding of how new technologies are shaping the society and economy of the United States.

(3) The National Science Foundation has identified the “10 Big Ideas for NSF Future Investment” including “Harnessing the Data Revolution” and the “Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier”, with artificial intelligence is a critical component.

(4) The outputs generated by generative adversarial networks should be included under the umbrella of research described in paragraph (3) given the grave national security and societal impact potential of such networks.

(5) Generative adversarial networks are not likely to be utilized as the sole technique of artificial intelligence or machine learning capable of creating credible deepfakes. Other techniques may be developed in the future to produce similar outputs.

SEC. 3. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT AND INFORMATION SECURITY.

The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on manipulated or synthesized content and information authenticity, which may include—

(1) fundamental research on digital forensic tools or other technologies for verifying the authenticity of information and detection of manipulated or synthesized content, including content generated by generative adversarial networks;

(2) fundamental research on technical tools for identifying manipulated or synthesized content, such as watermarking systems for generated media;

(3) social and behavioral research related to manipulated or synthesized content, including human engagement with the content;

(4) research on public understanding and awareness of manipulated and synthesized content, including research on best practices for educating the public to discern authenticity of digital content; and

(5) research awards coordinated with other federal agencies and programs, including the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency, with coordination enabled by the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program.

SEC. 4. NIST SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND STANDARDS ON GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall support research for the development of measurements and standards necessary to accelerate the development of the technological tools to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

(b) *OUTREACH.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct outreach—

(1) to receive input from private, public, and academic stakeholders on fundamental measurements and standards research necessary to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks; and

(2) to consider the feasibility of an ongoing public and private sector engagement to develop voluntary standards for the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DETECT MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall jointly submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the Directors' findings with respect to the feasibility for research opportunities with the private sector, including digital media companies to detect the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content; and

(2) any policy recommendations of the Directors that could facilitate and improve communication and coordination between the private sector, the National Science Foundation, and relevant Federal agencies through the implementation of innovative approaches to detect digital content produced by generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 6. GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “generative adversarial network” means, with respect to artificial intelligence, the machine learning process of attempting to cause a generator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as the “generator”) and a discriminator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as a “discriminator”) to compete against each other to become more accurate in their function and outputs, through which the generator and discriminator create a feedback loop, causing the generator to produce increasingly higher-quality artificial outputs and the discriminator to increasingly improve in detecting such artificial outputs.

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

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2904), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 779, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 779) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 779) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020, THROUGH MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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 business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 20, at 8:15 a.m.; Tuesday, November 24, at 12:15 p.m.; Friday, November 27, at 3:15 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 27, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, November 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of

morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 5 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to resume the McNeel nomination under the previous order. Finally, I ask that the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen following disposition of the McNeel nomination.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020, AT 8:15 A.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 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 20, 2020, at 8:15 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. COBB
BRIG. GEN. NICHOLAS A. GENTILE, JR.
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. GEROCK
BRIG. GEN. DUKE A. PIRAK
BRIG. GEN. DARRIN E. SLATEN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW D. DINMORE
BRIG. GEN. GENE W. HUGHES, JR.
BRIG. GEN. TONI M. LORD
BRIG. GEN. PETER NEZAMIS
BRIG. GEN. GREGG A. PEREZ
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS M. SUELZER
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. WEBER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SANDRA L. BEST
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES G. JEFFRIES
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. MCEACHEN
BRIG. GEN. SHANNA M. WOYAK
BRIG. GEN. BRETT A. WYRICK

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES R. CAMP
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI
BRIG. GEN. PAUL E. KNAPP
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD R. NEELY
BRIG. GEN. TORRENCE W. SAXE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BARRY A. BLANCHARD

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. TARA D. MCKENNIE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MATTHEW A. BARKER

COLONEL MATTHEW A. BOURASSA
 COLONEL MICHAEL J. BRUNO
 COLONEL MICHAEL O. CADLE
 COLONEL JOHN J. CAMPO
 COLONEL DAVID J. CIESIELSKI
 COLONEL ALICE A. CLARK
 COLONEL DAVID V. COCHRAN
 COLONEL LYNN E. COLE
 COLONEL JOHN M. COSGROVE
 COLONEL KURT R. DAVIS
 COLONEL JASON D. DICKINSON
 COLONEL LEON J. DODROE
 COLONEL DANIEL M. FESLER
 COLONEL EMIL J. FILKORN
 COLONEL ROBERT T. GREGORY
 COLONEL DAVID B. JOHNSON
 COLONEL MICHELE L. KILGORE
 COLONEL BRADFORD U. LARSON
 COLONEL VICTOR R. MACIAS
 COLONEL DEAN B. MARTIN, JR.
 COLONEL DANIEL R. MCDONOUGH
 COLONEL ALLISON C. MILLER
 COLONEL MARK W. MITCHUM
 COLONEL MICHELLE R. MULBERRY
 COLONEL BILLY F. MURPHY, JR.
 COLONEL JOHN R. O'CONNOR
 COLONEL DAVID A. PREISMAN
 COLONEL JORI A. ROBINSON
 COLONEL SHANNON D. SMITH
 COLONEL BRYONY A. TERRELL

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JEFFREY R. ALEXANDER
 COLONEL MARK A. GOODWILL
 COLONEL MARK A. MUCKEY
 COLONEL RICK L. MUTCHLER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JOHN H. BONDHUS
 COLONEL JEFFREY D. COATS
 COLONEL SEAN F. CONROY
 COLONEL MICHAEL L. CORNELL
 COLONEL EDWARD H. EVANS, JR.
 COLONEL CHRISTOPHER K. FAUROT
 COLONEL LAWRENCE P. HAGER
 COLONEL DAVID M. HOUGHLAND
 COLONEL CATHERINE M. JUMPER
 COLONEL JULIO R. LAIRET
 COLONEL WILLIAM M. LEAHY
 COLONEL JAMES R. PARRY
 COLONEL LYLE D. SHIDLA
 COLONEL TODD R. STARBUCK
 COLONEL MELINDA L. SUTTON
 COLONEL MICHAEL T. VENERDI
 COLONEL PETER L. ZALEWSKI

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. DENISE M. DONNELL

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. ANTHONY D. STRATTON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 1211:

To be second lieutenant

BRANDON M. CRISP

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MATTHEW B. ALEXANDER
 ELKANAH L. ALTIUSPHU
 ELIZABETH A. ARROW
 CONNOR H. BERRIER
 WILLIAM R. BINGHAM
 SEAN S. BOYD
 ANTOINETTE G. BROERE
 CAIRI J. BUMPUS
 ANDREW G. BUTLER
 CHRISTOPHER B. CHONG
 ROBERT J. CLAVIN
 CARRIE G. COOLEY
 BRIAN S. CURRY
 MIGUEL DUPREYJEDA
 MO FENG
 JASON F. FIGGEROA
 ANDREW FOBES
 MATTHEW T. FRANK
 DANIEL A. FRITZ
 LAUREN E. GANNON
 DOMINIC M. GANZE

JAMES T. GRAVES
 DAVID C. GROVES
 JAMES A. HABERER
 WILLIAM C. HAGERBUSH
 ELIZABETH A. HAHN
 SHANE A. HALTON
 JEFFREY L. HARPER
 EDWARD A. HARRIS
 JOSHUA I. HAVASSY
 REBECCA L. HAWS
 DANE M. HOLTMAYER
 ELIZABETH M. HUBBS
 SARA E. HUTCHINGS
 ROBERT B. JEFFERSON
 DOUGLAS J. JONES
 GRACE A. JONES
 IRIS A. KAKU
 RORY F. KOZIK
 TIMOTHY G. LAUFER
 PETER J. LEBLANC
 CHRISTOPHER P. LEWIS
 ALEXANDER M. LUKICH
 PATRICK O. MCNAMARA
 MICHAEL S. MELZER
 KWESI A. MITCHELL
 JENNIFER M. MORSE
 BLAKE W. MURPHEY
 SEAN A. NEWMAN
 CHRISTOPHER R. NOVITCH
 JEREMY A. OLIVER
 KIMBERLY A. OLIVIER
 ANDREW E. PARKER
 BRYNN R. PELOQUIN
 CARLOS E. PEREZ
 ALEXANDER D. PHELPS
 DOMINIQUE L. PLUMAGE
 MICHAEL C. POLYARD
 LAUREN E. POWELL
 MARK R. RAPISARDO
 CHRISTOPHER L. RIVERA
 JASON M. ROBINSON
 JOHN R. SAPLIWAY
 JARRED P. SHANNON
 JESSICA K. SHEFFIELD
 KATHERINE L. SMITH
 RICHARD S. STURMAN
 TENESHIA G. SYLVE
 AIDAN E. TACHERON
 CARSON W. TALLEY
 DONALD M. TONEY, JR.
 NICOLE C. WASHINGTON
 ANNICKA M. WEBER
 DAVID C. WILLIAMS
 CHRISTOPHER W. WILSON
 ANGELINA R. WOODBURN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DEREK S. BERNSEN
 WALTHER A. DELORBE
 DWAYNE D. DUNLAP
 JOSEPH M. FEDERICO
 WILLIAM J. REIMER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DEENA R. APT
 ERIC M. BACHTEL
 ANDREW L. BALL
 JORGE L. BAUZO
 WILLIAM L. BRATCHER III
 HECTOR R. BREA
 MATTHEW B. BRINK
 LAURENCE M. CALUZA, JR.
 MICHAEL R. CARNEY
 JUSTIN S. CARTER
 DEMARLO M. CHAPPELL
 MICHAEL A. CLEMENTE
 KERRIE V. COLEMAN
 KORIN K. COOK
 PATRICIA R. CUNANAN
 JOHN R. DAVIS, JR.
 STEPHEN E. ECKSTEIN
 YVES EMILUS
 JONATHAN P. ENGLAND
 TAMFU G. FOMUSO
 DION B. GOODWYN
 HAROLD L. GORDON, JR.
 LASHONDRA P. GREEN
 GASTON A. HATFIELD, JR.
 STEVEN M. HAWKINS
 BRAD A. HEANEY
 GREGORY W. HERROD
 ROBERT S. HIBBS
 TIMOTHY A. HOLLAND
 FAWNI B. HOLT
 JOSEPH W. HUETT
 KEISHA A. HULLABY
 JASON J. JONES
 TEMI A. JONES
 KYLE R. KAUFFMAN
 JEFFREY A. KRYSKI
 JASON A. LAMBSON
 ANTHONY F. LAMONICA
 ADAM J. LEVINE
 JAMES E. LEWIS
 JAMES R. LEWIS, JR.
 PETER L. LOCKLEAR
 JEROME V. MALVEAUX, JR.
 JEFFREY T. MAULDIN
 MICHAEL C. McDONALD

DENNIS H. NYSTROM
 KOREY A. PACK
 KENNETH W. PENNINGTON
 ROGER E. ROBITAILLE, JR.
 BRADLEY K. RUSH
 THOMAS R. SAMELLA
 DAREN L. SANFORD
 MICHAEL J. SCHRUMP
 VALERIE E. SELLERS
 JOHN L. TATRO
 CLINT E. TERGESON
 WILLIAM J. TRAYLOR
 GARY E. ULLRICH
 DAVID J. VANDYKE
 WINDIE M. VILLANUEVA
 SHANE A. WELSH
 DAVID D. WILLIAMS
 TODD W. WISH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

PATRICK R. ADAMS
 MICHAEL J. ATTERBERY
 RICK W. BATES
 NATHAN A. BATTLE
 DANIEL J. BELL
 REX W. BIXBY
 CHAD E. BLANKENSHIP
 VERBON D. BRADLEY III
 SHAWN C. BRANSKE
 MICHAEL L. COBLE
 JAMES B. CORLEY
 JASON R. CROW
 CODY W. DAVIS
 GEORGE L. DAY II
 THOMAS J. DISTEFANO
 ROBERT R. EASTMAN III
 JAMES N. EDWARDS
 TERRY A. ENGLAND
 JOHN P. ENGLISH
 MICHAEL A. ESPOSITO, JR.
 MIGUEL A. GONZALEZ
 STEVEN T. GRIFFITH
 JARROD A. HANCOCK
 ROBERT M. HARTWELL
 JUAN P. HERRERAMAUER
 JASON R. HOFFMIER
 PAUL G. HUCKABY
 MICHAEL J. JOHNSON
 NICHOLAS L. KNIGHTS
 JOHN T. LOOBY
 JASON S. MCLAUGHLIN
 NICHOLAS M. MEADORS
 JUSTIN G. MILLER
 MATTHEW R. MILLER
 CHRISTOPHER R. MONTMINY
 ERIC A. MOORE
 JOHN R. NOLDAN
 MICHAEL F. PEOPLES
 FRED D. RAY
 CHRISTOPHER S. SEE
 ZEBULUN J. SHAW
 CHRISTOPHER G. SMITH
 CODRUT I. STAN
 AARON M. STROEH
 JAMES H. TAYLOR III
 WILLIAM P. THOMAS
 IAN E. WATERS
 EARL WATSON III
 COLIN C. WILLIAMS
 JACOB R. WOFFORD
 TODD M. WOODCOCK
 DAVID M. YOST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JOSHUA D. ALLEN
 YANO M. ANTEROCATLETT
 BENJAMIN S. BARTON
 NICOLAS J. Q. BATISTA
 JAYSON S. BELMES
 SHEA A. BICKERSTAFF
 DUSTIN B. BLAIR
 SHAWN A. BLAIR
 ADAM J. BROPHY
 WARREN K. BUCKLAND
 SHAWN M. CONLEY
 BRIAN C. COUGHLIN
 YUNIEL DELGADO
 JOAN M. DIAZ
 PERPETUA A. DOMITROVICH
 MICHAEL D. DOYLE
 AARON D. GATHER
 MICHAEL L. HARPER
 TERENCE J. HIGLESIEM
 HEATH R. HILSHIEM
 JASON W. HOSLER
 OSBALDO IBARRAVARELA
 PAUL N. JENKS
 LAMAR T. JOHNEKINS
 CHRISTOPHER D. JONES
 RYAN R. JONES
 IMRAN M. KAMISS
 DOUGLAS A. KESTERSON
 KYLE D. KUESTER
 KENNETH J. LUTZA
 JULIO C. MIRANDA
 JEFFREY W. NAKHO
 KENZY C. NAZARE
 PATRICK D. PALMA
 DONALD E. PHELPS II

DANIEL J. PRATT
DAVID QUANT
MARIA D. RELAYO
MARK A. RODRIGUEZ
SAMUEL H. ROSE
QUENTINPARRISH L. SALINAS
KEVIN L. SAUER
JASON A. SHANKS
CHRISTOPHER C. SIMPSON
SHANNON D. THAYER
SHELDON C. WALLEN
MICHAEL E. WILCKENS
MICHAEL S. WILLIAMS
PAUL S. YOUNG
SHAWN F. ZENTNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

OLUWASEUN O. O. ABEGUNDE
NICHOLAS M. ACKERMAN
JAMES L. ADAIR
SCOTT A. ADAMS
SAMUEL J. ADAMSON
MAHMOOD D. ALAVERDI
ALVIN A. ALCAIDE
MICHAEL B. ALEXANDER
REBEKAH M. ALFORD
HANNAH E. ALLAIRE
DAVID M. ALLEN
JAMES M. ALLEN, JR.
ROBERT R. ALLEN
RUSSELL W. ALLEN
ASHLEY E. ALLISON
TRAVIS C. ALSUP
ANTHONY W. AMMERMAN
ALEXANDER S. ANDERSON
JOSEPH S. ANDERSON
KYLE J. ANDERSON
SHANNON R. ANDERSON
KATHLEEN M. ANDREWS
DONALD P. ANTHONY
JOHN J. ARBALL
JOSHUA P. ARCHER
ERIC M. ARNOLD
NICHOLAS R. ARNOLD
MATTHEW J. ARNSBERGER
TYLER A. ARP
JONATHAN D. ASBURY
JEFFREY J. ASCH
DAVID J. ASH
NATHAN D. ASHINHURST
KYLE E. ATAKTURK
DEVIN S. ATHEY
FRANCIS A. ATKINSON
DANIEL T. AUCOIN
KRISTIN E. AVILA
LATASHA A. BACUS
JOSHUA S. BAILEY
JOHN L. BAKER
JONATHAN E. BAKER
TIMOTHY J. BAKER
BRYAN J. BALLANTYNE
CHARLES C. BALLARD
JOSHUA T. BALLARD
NICHOLAS W. BALLARD
JOHN D. BAMONTE, JR.
ANDREW J. BANKHEAD
DENNIS E. BANKS
BOWE L. BARGER
SEAN J. BARNER
MICHAEL S. BARRE
GRANT M. BARRETT
MICHAEL T. BARTEK
GERALD K. BATCHELDER
PATRICK W. BATES
STEPHEN B. BAUCHMAN
ZACHARY J. BAUER
JORDAN W. BAUM
JAMES W. BEAJ
GARY A. BELAGA
JOHN G. BELLEZZA
ROBERT J. BELLISIMO
AUBREY E. BENNETT
MATTHEW R. BENNETT
DANIEL P. BERGEN II
KELSEY L. BERGH
STEVEN M. BERRER
JOHN P. BERRY
PRITI BHATNAGAR
JAKUB S. BIALK
JOEL W. BIALKOWSKY
JOHN A. BICE
VERONICA J. BILDZUKIEWICZ
RACHEL A. BITAR
PAUL J. BITNER
JOSEPH C. BIVANS
DERRON B. BLACK
JENNA H. BLAIS
MICHAEL W. BLAIS
WILLIAM C. BLALOCK
NICHOLAS S. BLANKENSHIP
KYLE H. BLIZZARD
LOREN A. BLUMH
WILLIAM W. BOCHNER
KAITLIN E. BOENSEL
JEREMY R. BOHANAN
JUSTIN A. BOILY
BRYAN A. BOLDON
TRAVIS J. BOLLER
JEFFREY S. BOLSTAD
KYLE W. BOLTON
TRAVIS A. BOND
BRETT A. BONDS
IAN R. BOOK

CAROLYN V. BOOTHE
TAYLOR J. BOOTZ
ANDREW W. BOSCHERT
KRISTOFFER R. BOSTIC
JONATHAN D. BOTTLER
BRADLEY J. BOWEN
JENNIFER M. BOWER
BRYCE D. BOWERS
JOHN P. BOWMAN
JAMES D. BOYD
DAVID A. BRADLEY
KERRY K. BRADY
JUSTIN M. BRANLEY
JULIUS G. BRATTON
TAYLOR S. BRAUNS
COURTNEY K. BRAYMAN
RYAN P. BRENNER
SHANE P. BRENNER
RYAN C. BRESSON
PATRICK J. BRICE
HUNTER R. BRILEY
SAMUEL F. BRINSON
BRESHAUN K. BROWN
CLINTON A. BROWN
VANESSA D. BROWN
ERIC T. BRUGLER
MICHAEL J. BRUNETTI
ROBERT C. BUCHANAN III
JORDAN A. BUCHANAN
ALEXANDER J. BUCK
JOSEPH S. BUCK
MICHAEL J. BUCK
PETER J. BUE
CLIPTON R. BUKOWSKY II
BRIAN N. BULLEN
ERIC M. BUNKER
MATTHEW Y. BURCH
CHRISTOPHER C. BURKE
ROBERT T. BURKE
TYRONE B. BURKE
WILLIAM J. BURNS
CALEB J. BURROW
SARA L. BURTON
CARSON M. BURTON
KAITLYN E. BUSSELL
CONOR M. BUTTLERRICKETTS
LARA R. BZIK
ROWELL A. CAGUIOA
CHARLES J. CALABRETTA
CLAIRE A. CALAWAY
SAMUEL J. CALAWAY
CAITLIN L. CALHOON
CHAD K. CALLENDER
JOSE L. CALOCA
RYAN P. CAMPBELL
SHANE M. CAMPBELL
COREY J. CAMPOS
VICTOR W. CANNUSCIO
SEFRAM T. CARLILE
BARBARA G. CARLSON
CHAD A. CARLSON
PAUL A. CARPENTER
ADDISON J. CARR
JOHN S. CARTER
JORDAN R. CARTER
JONATHAN A. CASHON
NICHOLAS P. CASTELLI
BRENDAN M. B. CELIZ
NICHOLAS P. CELONE
CARLOS R. CEPEDA
CHRISTOPHER D. CHANDLER
KEVIN A. CHANEY
NICHOLAS A. CHAPPELL
SAVITH R. CHAUHAN
LAUREN E. CHESTER
CHARLES F. CHOATE VI
ALEX J. CLARK
PATRICK E. CLARK
ADAM T. CLAUDY
MICHAEL J. CLAUDY
BENJAMIN J. CLAY
JAMES P. CLAYTON
BENJAMIN M. CLEDE
RYAN W. CLIFFORD
ERIC N. CLOW
DEVON G. COBBS
MICHAEL A. COFSKY
ALEXANDER F. COKER
SCOTT D. COLLARD
BRITTANY A. COLLINS
BRYAN W. COLLINS
PATRICK B. COLLINS
TRAVIS A. COLLINS
JOHN P. COLLUMS
HECTOR A. COLUNGA
CHAD R. COMPTON
SEAN A. CONKLE
ROBERT M. CONNELL
ANDREW C. CONSTANTINO
BRETT M. COOK
JEREMY R. COOPER
DAVID D. CORBIN
RYAN L. CORBIN
BRENDAN E. CORDIAL
ANNA M. CORNELL
ROBERTO CORONADO II
JAMES B. CORRIN
ROBERT D. COSLICK III
JOHN Z. COUGHLIN
DEIDRE F. COULSONTUCKER
ALEXANDER C. COVELLE
JOSHUA R. COX
WILLIAM B. CRAVEN
NICKY. CRAWFORD
SEAN K. CROSS
SAMUEL D. CROUSE
JOEL G. CUDDA

CHARLES B. CUMMINGS
JOHN J. CUSHING, JR.
MORGAN A. DAHL
ALEXANDER M. DAIE
ZACHARY C. DANIEL
BRENDAN P. DANNER
FRED DARLINGTON IV
JAMES D. DAVIS II
DARNELL D. DEAS
SAMUEL F. DEEDY
ALEXANDER J. DEGELDER
CHRISTOPHER J. DEMATTEO
TIMOTHY R. DENNELLY
DAVID A. DENNING
JORDAN L. DENNIS
JEREMIAH A. DERRICK
TOM W. DESHAZO
RACHAEL M. DESKIN
CASEY P. DESORMIER
JOHN J. DEVER II
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GRAHAM D. ZIEMBA
ALEXANDER T. ZIMMERMAN
JOSHUA W. ZISKA
PETER J. ZOLLWEG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BEKIM F. AUSTIN
BRANDON R. BAXTER
PETER BAZALAKI
RYAN W. BOWERS
KEVIN S. CARLSEN
CODY M. CARTWRIGHT
BRYCE L. CHRISTENSEN
ADRIAN J. ELIZALDEVALENCIA
AMERICA E. ESTEVEZGUERRERO
CORY C. FLAMENT
JOSEPH M. FLESHMAN
KIMBERLY M. FOWLER
TAMARAH K. GRANT
LUCAS M. GROVES
JAYLYN D. HAGEN
JESSIKA S. HALL
CHANTRELLE L. HARRIS
PAUL P. HEFT
ALLISON R. HOGARTH
ROBERT E. LUERS
PHILIP J. LUKANICH
NICOLE P. LUNG
EMMANUEL E. MAMARIL
MATTHEW C. MOLLOY
BRITTANY W. MORGAN
ERIC M. MYERS
THOMAS K. NEEDLES
LANCE M. NOEL
KAMILLE D. PIZARRO
GARY L. RAYFIELD
CHARLOTTE E. ROCHE
KENNETH D. TATE
ROBERT J. TERRANOVA, JR.
KELLY R. THOMSON
SYKESHA M. THURMAN
NIKITA D. TIPPINS
HENRY A. VILLATORO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ROBERT T. AUGUSTINE
ROBYN W. BIANCHI
SCOTT M. BIRKEMEIER
RAYMOND D. BLYSKAL
KAITLYN M. BOWER
JOSHUA D. BOWLING
ANDRE E. BYRD
ADAM M. CAMPBELL
KYLE A. CHANCE
BRYAN D. CROSBY
JULIA E. CUMMING
EMILY A. CURRAN
RENATA DACRUZARAUJOVIEIRA
THOMAS A. DEETER
KRISTOPHER K. DEVISSER
JAMES J. DRACE
JAMISON R. FIEBRANDT
ANNA L. HAAG
ROBERT D. HALL
ZISHAN HAMEED
DAVID J. HATCH
SHANE A. HAYS
HERBERT F. HEANEY
MARCELLA R. HERSTERDUDLEY
JOEL J. HUBBARD
SUNG HUH
FAISA T. HUSSEIN
STEVEN F. HUTCHINSON
DAVID M. INGRAHAM
KATHERINE E. IRGENS
AUSTIN R. JOLLEY
JORDAN A. KLEIN
AARON D. LENTNER
DANIEL W. LESZCZYNSKI
JAMES R. LEY
TRAVIS A. LIPPMAN
WYATT T. MIDDLETON
SAM C. MURPHY
SHAWN C. MURRAY
TRAVIS J. NORRELL
BENJAMIN W. PARKER
KEMI R. PAVLOCAK
TRAVIS J. RAPP
JOSEPH A. SCHNIEDERS
ALEXANDER L. SCOTT
MATTHEW D. SPAKOWSKI
PHILLIP M. TALARICO
CHRISTOPHER C. TANG
NEIL S. TUBLIN
NICOLAS W. TWISSELMAN
CHARLES E. VALDYKE
ROBERT T. VANN
TODD M. VRANAS
MATTHEW S. WAGNER
MICHAEL F. WALTERS
CODY C. WHITE
ALEXANDER J. WUNDERLICH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GAVIN L. KUREY

MICHAEL A. MELNICK III
MATTHEW R. MERROW
MATTHEW E. OATES
ANTHONY J. WICH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER S. FIFE II
GRANT R. GAGNON
GILBERT GARCIA, JR.
SCOTT A. HATZUNG
THOMAS C. HIGGINBOTHAM
JOHN V. KAMENSKY
CRAIG B. K. LAPILIO
KEITH C. LOEDEMAM
BENJAMIN M. MATHE
MARY D. MCGHEE
DAVID G. MERRILL
TRACIE L. MEYERS
KEVIN D. NIST
KEVIN M. SCHLEICHER
CLINTON J. SMITH
TANISHA Y. SPEED
CASEY J. STAILD
JOSEPH R. TULLIS III
DENISE M. WASHINGTON
WAYNE M. ZANNI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JAMES F. ADAMS
COURTNEY M. CALLAGHAN
LAUREN M. CHATMAS
ANDREW R. DEGARMO
ADRIANA J. GENUALDI
KARA L. HANDLEY
MADISYN S. M. HANSEN
JOSEPH P. KELLEY
KATHERINE C. KOENIG
TIMOTHY S. PIETRACK
ROBERT A. REINHIMER
KARL L. SANFORD
KARL F. SCHONBERG
CATHERINE M. SHEERIN
MARY E. R. SMITH
MARY C. WALSH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DAVID F. BORING
CASEY J. BURGNER
ALEXANDER W. CAVINS
ERIKA A. FEE
STEPHANIE A. GEANT
TERRANCE O. GREEN
MATTHEW K. HARDIE
JOSHUA J. HELMS
SHUNIKA S. JOHNSON
MELISSA N. JONMOORE
KYLE R. KAUSCH
ALEXANDER J. LEHMAN
EMILY A. MOTZ
DARREN L. PASTRANA
DAVID C. RAMSAUR
NIKLAS H. RUETER
LEE T. SURING
JESSICA B. WASSERMAN
CYNTHIA F. WILLIAMSON
JACQUELINE ZIMNY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

NEHA U. ATHAVALA
JONATHON R. BICE
AMAMNDA K. DAY
PHOENIX W. GEIMER
JERIMY R. HARTLESS
CELESSE C. HIDROVOGUIDRY
BRENNAN T. HOSACK
CAMERON D. JENNISON
KI S. JUNG
JESSICA H. KAWAMURA
ROS A. LARY
JOSEPH B. MCGINNIS
CHELSEY C. MCMAHAN
JASON M. OLSON
GREGORY A. PAYONE
HANG S. PHEIFFER
JINWEI PHO
JOSEPH A. SALVATORE
DANIELLA P. SEPULVEDA
VANESSA K. SONNICHSEN
RACHEL J. THOMAS
STEVEN P. THOMAS
ISMAEL TOUNKARA
MARIA J. VELORIA
CHRISTOPHER T. WEHNER
ERIC T. WILMER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MALIKUL A. AZIZ
ANDREW C. BAIERWALTER

PETER B. BENSON
MATTHEW S. BERNARD
MALCOLM L. BORDEN
SUSANMARIE BRIDENBECKER
LONDON BRIDGET
BRITT J. CAMPBELL
TODD M. CARLSON
JEREMY S. CARTER
JAKOB P. CHAUVIN
SHAMEEKA A. COLON
CASSIE R. H. CORL
SARITA K. CRADDOCK
RYAN M. M. EDEM
BART D. ELLISON
SCOTT E. FINDLEY
KAYLA R. FOSTER
ALEXANDER T. FROELKE
ROBERT R. GARY
TAYLOR I. C. GAZELEY
DONALD J. GEORGE, JR.
MATTHEW W. GLAZE
YOLANDA E. GUTIERREZ
FRITZ W. HAIN
JASON M. HEINEN
WILLIAM D. HENRY, JR.
JAMES R. HOWELL
KYLE G. HUNTER
PATRICK C. JOHNSON
TEWANER L. JOHNSON
RICHARD C. JONES III
JOHN T. KALAFATIS
SPIROS P. KAROUSOS
RYAN M. KAVANAUGH
IAN M. KELLY
MARIAN M. KENDRICK
CHRISTOPHER S. KIRKPATRICK
CAMERON E. KOVAREK
TYLER J. KRAMER
RENE S. LAPIDARIO II
GARY L. LATTIMORE
MICHAEL R. LIDESTRI
CHRISTOPHER R. MARTIN
GABRIELLE H. MCCrackEN
DUSTIN M. MCKINNEY
JOSHUA L. MILLWOOD
JUSTIN T. MITCHELL
EBEN R. MOORE
WILLIAM V. MOULTRIE
MBANEFO N. OFODILE
BRANDON J. V. OLAND
MICHAEL L. PARKS, JR.
MICHELLE L. PARMENTAR
JOSEPH V. PASION
CHRISTOPHER M. PAYNE
JACOB D. PILARSKI
RANDY L. PRICE
NJERI A. PURVIS
JAMES S. RICE
KATHERINE E. RICE
CHRISTOPHER J. RICHARDS
DAVID S. ROSE
ZAKI A. RUCKER
JASON R. RUNKLE
GILBERT A. SANCHEZ
RICHARD T. SCHROYER
CALVIN A. SESSIONS
BENJAMIN J. SHELDON
JASON C. SNYDER
CRAIG E. STOREY
TRISHA M. STRATTON
MICHELE R. SULLIVAN
WILLIAM J. TYLER
JOSHUA J. VERRET
ALEXANDER D. WASHOFISKY
IAN M. WELLER
STEPHANIE L. WEXLER
KANISHA A. WHITE
SCOTT H. ZINN II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

LUIS E. BANCHS
TROY M. BEIDERBECKE
MICHAEL A. BERTSCHINGER
SAMANTHA J. BLEA
JASON R. BROWN
CARLOS D. CAMPUZANO
BRIAN J. CAPLAN
MARIE R. CARR
LUKE R. CHAPMAN
SHARON L. CLARK
KYLE W. DECKER
ANDREW J. FAULK
YOUNG J. GI
PAUL M. GUIDRY II
IKEKEEN D. HARDY
DMITRI HATLEY
ROBERT H. HAUSER
KATIE L. HENDRICKSON
ERIC L. HUGHES
JAMES B. HUSTED
RANIA L. JOHNSON
ADRIAN A. JONES
REGINA M. KETTER
JUSTIN L. KOMMA
CHRISTIAN D. LARSEN
HANS M. LAUZEN
BRYAN P. LAY
ERICK A. LIM
BRYAN L. MAUSTELLER
LINDA J. MCMILLAN
DANIEL A. MICHNEVICH
SHAURICE S. MILLER
JAMES W. OVERBY IV

JASON W. POOL
JUSTIN R. ROBSON
AMANDA K. SCHUCK
MEGAN N. SILVESTER
JORDAN A. SMITH
BRIAN J. STORM
MARK G. VILLA
LEE H. WARWICK
MATTHEW K. WITTKOPP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GEORGE W. ACFALLE
MARCUS T. BROWNING
JUAN D. CARDONA
MATTHEW R. CLARK
ROBERT C. COATES
DAVID J. COON
BRIAN C. CRUMP
LEE E. EVANS
CORY D. FITZPATRICK
GREGORY A. FRITZ
ANSEL G. HARRIS
CHRISTOPHER A. HOULE
SHANIQUE D. HOWARD
GARY MOLINA
DANIEL R. MORRISON
MICHAEL A. NORIEGA
MALIKA H. PETTIGREW
BOGDAN RIMBU
ANTHONY M. ROJAS
MATTHEW E. RUMPKE
CLARENCE E. SHELTON, JR.
JORGE VARGAS
EMMA S. YEARBY

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF AZIZ Y. YOUNES.
FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF GUNTER E. SCHWABE.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT L. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH CONRAD WP. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE

SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 29, 2020.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BERGEN NICHOLE BASSETT AND ENDING WITH MARK A. SULLO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON AUGUST 6, 2020.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 18, 2020:

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MICHELLE A. SCHULTZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

THE JUDICIARY

STEPHEN A. VADEN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LISA S. KENNA, OF VERMONT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU .

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

ROBERT E. PRIMUS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS LASZLO VAJDA, OF ARIZONA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNION OF BURMA.

MELANIE HARRIS HIGGINS, OF GEORGIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BURUNDI.

JEANNE MARIE MALONEY, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.

JAMES BROWARD STORY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAOR-

DINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

MICHAEL A. MCCARTHY, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

THE JUDICIARY

KATHRYN KIMBALL MIZELLE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(D):

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRENDAN C. MCPHERSON
REAR ADM. (LH) DOUGLAS M. SCHOFIELD
REAR ADM. (LH) ANDREW M. SUGIMOTO
REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD V. TIMME
REAR ADM. (LH) TODD C. WIEMERS

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN C. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH JESSICA S. WORST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2020.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CORINNA M. FLEISCHMANN AND ENDING WITH KIMBERLY C. YOUNG-MCLEAR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2020.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL S. ADAMS, JR. AND ENDING WITH ANDREW H. ZUCKERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 20, 2020.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF AZIZ Y. YOUNES.
FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF GUNTER E. SCHWABE.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT L. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH CONRAD WP. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 29, 2020.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BERGEN NICHOLE BASSETT AND ENDING WITH MARK A. SULLO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON AUGUST 6, 2020.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MATTHEW NICHOLAS SUTHERLAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Nicholas Sutherland. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has served his troop as patrol leader and earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Matthew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Matthew made closets at the Clay County Museum for his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Nicholas Sutherland for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. GEORGE V. RAINEY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. George V. Rainey who passed away on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at the age of 89. He was the oldest Zulu king of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club.

A New Orleans native, Mr. Rainey attended New Orleans Public School System and graduated with the first senior class at Booker T. Washington School in 1949. He would later join the U.S. Army where he served in the Korean War. In 1967, Mr. Rainey started Rainey's Restaurant and Catering, which quickly became a staple in the city. For several decades it was one of the most prominent Black-owned restaurants in the area that served both the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and Essence Festival.

In 1972, Mr. Rainey joined the Zulu Social Aide and Pleasure Club where he served in a variety of capacities for more than 45 years. In 1978, he was elected Big Shot and starting in 1991 he served as the organization's vice president for five years. In his service as a Board member for more than two decades, he was integral to the production of Zulu's poster

series and its successful pursuit of corporate sponsorships.

In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Mr. Rainey returned home to assist families in need. Along with Bishop James Nelson Brown of Fisher Community Church and the 82nd Airborne Division cooks, he worked courageously for two months to feed the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Rainey was a treasure to the city of New Orleans. That is why he was honored by President George W. Bush and the Jefferson Award Foundation. He lived a fulfilled life doing what he loved to do for so many years. I am grateful for his service. I send my sincere prayers, condolences, and strength to the Rainey family during this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. George V. Rainey's wife, Jeanne died in 2005. He is survived by three daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. George V. Rainey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to a death in the family. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 221, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4611, the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II, I would have voted Yea.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOANNA MCCLINTON

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Rep. BRENDAN BOYLE and Rep. MARY GAY SCANLON to honor State Representative Joanna McClinton, who has been elected as the Democratic Leader of the Pennsylvania State House. Rep. McClinton will serve as the first woman and first woman of color elected in this role.

Rep. McClinton is a lifelong Philadelphian. She is a graduate of La Salle University and Villanova School of Law, both located in Philadelphia, PA. Rep. McClinton was an Assistant Public Defender for seven years. In 2013, she entered the political field as Chief Counsel for State Senator Anthony H. Williams. In August 2015, Rep. McClinton was sworn in to serve the people of the 191st Legislative District of Pennsylvania after winning a special election.

Breaking barriers is not new to Rep. McClinton. In 2018, she became the first Afri-

can American and woman to be elected as the House Democratic Caucus chairman for the 2019–20 legislative session. Rep. McClinton's historic election makes her the highest-ranking woman to serve in the Pennsylvania General Assembly's 244-year history and the highest ranking Black Woman.

On behalf of my colleagues, we wish to extend our sincere congratulations to Rep. Joanna McClinton for all her achievements and her continued commitment to public service and enhancing the quality of life for residents within her district and the state of Pennsylvania.

HONORING NNAMDI P.J. ANYANIKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nnamdi P.J. Anyanike. Nnamdi is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nnamdi has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nnamdi has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nnamdi P.J. Anyanike for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING TOMMY PACELLO

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Tommy Pacella, President of the Memphis Medical District Cooperative, who passed away gracefully on Monday at the age of 43. Mr. Pacella did much to improve his hometown, particularly the Medical Center area, where he helped 36 businesses open and thrive over the past six years. Before that, as an Assistant City Attorney and at the Mayor's Institute of Excellence in Government, Mr. Pacella brought best practices and a passion for improvement to his city, and they will be his lasting legacy. Mr. Pacello, a graduate of the Evangelical Christian School, the University of Georgia, and the University of Memphis, where he earned a law degree and Master's degree in city planning, was uniquely qualified to tackle the urban issues that were his chosen field, and he excelled. I was pleased to work with him on the

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

transportation infrastructure issues of the Medical Center district and appreciated his thoughtful ideas for improvements that he laid out at a roundtable forum I hosted just last year. Mr. Pacello was also chairman of the Memphis Chapter of the Urban Land Institute, which named him as one of the top 40 real estate professionals under the age of 40 in 2015, and he served on the Memphis Area Transit Authority board of commissioners. The way he approached his illness with a positive mindset and a focus on the essential was an inspiration to all who knew him. I express my profound condolences to his wife, Olivia; his young daughters, Colette and Cecile; his many friends and colleagues; and all those his life inspired. I have no doubt that, had he been given more time, he would have been one of our greatest civic leaders. He led a fine life and will be missed."

RECOGNIZING LUCERO STOCKETT
FOR HER PROMOTION TO CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my United States Air Force fellow, Lucero "Lucy" Stockett on her promotion to Chief Master Sergeant.

Born in Mexico, Lucy was raised in El Paso, Texas, and, at the age of seventeen, enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF). She began her impressive career in the USAF as an inflight refueling operator, with her primary specialty being a KC-10 Boom Operator. Lucy's experience includes qualifications as a Boom Operator Instructor, Formal Training Unit Instructor, and Evaluator. She has had multiple deployments supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. While enlisted, Lucy has continued to learn and better herself, receiving a B.S. in Sports Medicine from American Military University in 2014, and an M.A. in Executive Leadership from Liberty University in 2017.

It has been a privilege having Lucy in my office this year. She is bright, passionate, eager to learn, and a true patriot. As an enlisted officer, she brings invaluable experience and expertise regarding our nation's defense. My staff and I have valued having her as a member of our team and we are proud to be a part of this important milestone for her.

It would be remiss to recognize Lucy without touching on why her promotion is such an impressive accomplishment. With Chief Master Sergeant being the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, Lucy's promotion is an inspiration for all young women who are interested in a career in our Armed Forces. She has shown that with dedication, hard work, and perseverance, any dream can be achieved.

Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to work with Chief Master Sergeant Lucero Stockett this year, and to pay tribute to her well-deserved promotion. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING STAMEY'S BARBECUE
IN GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stamey's Barbecue in Greensboro, North Carolina, which this year is celebrating 90 years of exceptional business.

Founded in 1930, Stamey's is renowned across my district for its Lexington-style barbecue, which involves cooking pork exclusively over hardwood coals and with their own original dip. Stamey's pitmasters arrive well before sunrise to begin a laborious cooking process that can take up to ten hours.

There is a saying at Stamey's that, "good barbecue takes patience and an acute taste for perfection," and their reputation across the state backs up that commitment to excellence.

Stamey's founder C. Warner Stamey was born in 1911 as the youngest of 11 children. After moving to Lexington, Mr. Stamey sold pork in tents across the street from the courthouse with talented barbecue men Jess Swicegood and Sid Weaver. In 1938, Mr. Stamey bought Swicegood's Barbecue and renamed it Stamey's.

In 1953, Mr. Stamey opened the 2206 W. Gate City Blvd, Greensboro location, which was later joined by the 2812 Battleground Ave, Greensboro location in 1970. Warner eventually handed the business off to his son Charles who was later joined by his brother Keith Stamey in 1970. In 1993, current owner Chip Stamey joined the family business. Sadly, Keith passed away in 2000, but Charles Stamey still resides in Greensboro where he proudly serves as barbecue pitmaster emeritus.

Madam Speaker, treasured family establishments like Stamey's Barbecue give character and richness to the districts we represent. I am proud to have Stamey's in North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, which is a source of great pride in our community. I ask that you please join me in both congratulating them on 90 years in business and wishing them well as they embark on the next 90 years.

CONGRATULATING THE SULLIVAN
EAGLES SOFTBALL TEAM FOR
WINNING THE 2020 MISSOURI
CLASS II STATE SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Sullivan Eagles softball team for winning the 2020 Missouri Class II State Softball Championship.

This is Sullivan High School's first state championship win in the history of their softball program. This team and their coach Ashley Crump should be commended for their perseverance and hard work throughout this past season and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Sullivan Eagles team for a job well done.

HONORING LUKE JAMES STANTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Luke James Stanton. Luke is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Luke has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Luke has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Luke has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Luke has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Luke replaced all the service flag poles at the Veteran's Memorial in Liberty, MO.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Luke James Stanton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SER-
GEANT JOHN T. BEY'S RETIRE-
MENT FOLLOWING HIS YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE COMMON-
WEALTH AND THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to congratulate Chief Master Sergeant John T. Bey on his years of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America.

Chief Bey first enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in January 1986. He attended technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, and then was assigned as an electrical linesman at the 911th Air Wing (AW), Air Reserve Station Pittsburgh, where he served for nineteen years. Chief Bey also cross trained into the Fiscal Management (FM) career field in 2004, wherein he ascended the ranks at the 911th AW to Chief Master Sergeant. Chief Bey joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in February 2016, and was selected as the Special Operations Mission Support Group Chief, 193rd Special Operations Wing (SOW), Middletown, Pennsylvania. He served for just over one year before being selected as the Superintendent of the 193rd Special Operations Comptroller Flight.

Chief Bey is responsible for overseeing and managing the peacetime training and wartime deployment of a fifteen-person FM team. Additionally, his team is responsible for the FM capabilities serving over 1800 traditional Guard

Members, 400 dual-status Technicians and 150 AGR personnel during the 193rd SOW's regularly scheduled drills and daily operations. The FM team also oversees all financial management deployment briefings and newcomer orientation briefings and accessions.

In addition to Chief Bey's service in the Air Force, he's also served in the Pennsylvania State Police, where he first enlisted on June 5, 1989. He was appointed to the Special Emergency Response Team as a Crisis Negotiator in 1995 until 2003, when he was promoted to Lieutenant and served as Patrol Section Commander and Criminal Investigation Section Commander for Troop G, Hollidaysburg. He was promoted to Captain in 2008, and served as of Administration and Director Training in the Bureau of Education and Training until 2014. Chief Bey retired from the Pennsylvania State Police on October 13, 2014, at which time he served as Chief of Police for the Middletown Borough Police Department until 2016.

With great honor, I commend Chief Master Sergeant John T. Bey for his distinguished career of service to our great Commonwealth and Nation. His selfless service, dedication to duty, and tireless efforts to serving and protecting our Citizens on myriad levels is a great credit to himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING PUERTO RICO'S CHEMIST DAY

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Puerto Rico Chemist's Day, I would like to thank these professionals for their extraordinary and invaluable contributions to the advancement of science, public health and safety and both basic and applied research and development.

Their core scientific disciplines are essential for every technology we enjoy today, and their work helps create, deliver and ensure the safety of foods, fuels, drinking water, clean air, drugs and medical supplies, industrial processes, raw and processed materials and finished products that are indispensable to our society.

In particular, chemical scientists play a key role in many of Puerto Rico's prime industries, including most notably the biopharmaceutical and medical devices industry, as well as the aerospace and agriculture sectors, which are central to the economic development of the Island.

I especially want to recognize today the Puerto Rico Chemists' Association, which is celebrating its 79th annual conference with this year's theme: The Chemist, Always Creating Solutions for our Society.

Since 1941, this organization has acquired significant scientific and technical expertise to move Puerto Rico forward, while also maintaining standards of excellence in such a distinguished profession, promoting unity among its members, and increasing understanding and education of the chemical sciences.

With the great need for the expansion of scientific knowledge and its application to address the needs of a changing world, it is just that we recognize the work of this branch of the sciences, encourage new generations of students to pursue this discipline, and support them in their continued tasks.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN KUHNLE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Kuhnle, and his dedicated service to Virginia's First District. John joined my Stafford District Office two years ago as a part of the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program and has been an integral part of our team ever since.

John has been a significant member of the District Team in Virginia's First District throughout these past two years. He was dedicated to handling military and veteran case-work, and he provided years of knowledge and experience to the office. John never shied away from a challenge, and he would spend hours researching the latest information on veteran affairs and military topics in order to assist constituents.

John is a model caseworker. Staff routinely went to John for advice and guidance on military and veteran affairs procedure. John set the bar high, and often went above and beyond to make sure veterans and their families received the information and help they needed. I am confident that constituents in Virginia's First District have been in good hands for the past two years, through the selfless service of John Kuhnle.

John's last day with my office is on December 3, 2020 and he will be dearly missed by our entire staff. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in recognition of John Kuhnle, and I would like to thank John for his service to Virginia's First District.

HONORING BRENON D. CARR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brenon D. Carr. Brenon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brenon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brenon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brenon has served his troop as Den Chief and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Brenon has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Brenon planted four raised vegetable garden beds for Life Unlimited, a group home for adults with special needs in Liberty, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brenon D. Carr for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RETIREMENT OF CHP COMMISSIONER WARREN STANLEY

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of recognizing a public servant who has given 40 years of outstanding service to my state: California Highway Patrol Commissioner Warren Stanley, who retired on November 16, 2020. He is one of only a few people in the history of the CHP to hold every position, from Officer to its top executive. Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed him as the 56th Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in 2017, the first African American to attain the rank of Commissioner in the history of the agency.

I first worked with him when he became Chief of CHP's Southern Division while I was the California Assembly Speaker. I greatly valued his ability to serve as a bridge between the CHP and local residents, a role he would play for his entire career.

Warren's career focus led to his assignment as a member of the Protective Services Detail and as a Field Training Officer. He excelled and rose through the ranks, supervising the CHP's Border Division Investigative Services Unit as a Lieutenant, and then serving as Commander of the CHP Academy. He has completed many elite training programs, including the FBI National Executive Institute.

He reached the rank of Chief in 2008 and assumed command of Coastal, then Southern division. Before his appointment as Commissioner, he served as Deputy Commissioner, responsible for the day to day operation of the largest state law enforcement agency in the nation, with more than 11,000 employees in his charge.

As a law enforcement leader, Commissioner Stanley has spearheaded a number of innovative highway and traffic safety initiatives, including the Impaired Driving Section, responsible for implementing new laws facilitating new research into how cannabis affects driving behaviors. Commissioner Stanley worked to bolster the Highway Safety Corridor Program, which has promoted education, enforcement and coordination on California's roadways with high crash rates. Under his leadership, the CHP achieved a national profile in addressing the special needs and concerns of elderly drivers, as well as collaborating on initiatives to promote responsible driving among teens.

Warren's first commitment has always been to the people, both those under his command and the communities that they serve. He will be remembered for his humility and for his compassionate leadership style. I wish him and his family all the best wherever the next chapter of life may take him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call votes. Had I been present for them, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call 219: S. 327 Wounded Veterans Recreation Act—ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL—YEA; Roll Call 220: S. 3147 Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of—ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL—YEA; and Roll Call 221: H.R. 4611 Ocean Pollution Reduction Act—ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL—YEA.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ROGER LEE WILSON OF
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Roger Lee Wilson of Salisbury, North Carolina, who passed away on October 18, 2020.

Roger was a husband to Kate and a father to Matt and Wesley. As a member of Unity Presbyterian Church, he faithfully served as an Elder.

Throughout his life, Roger was a devoted and dedicated educator, mentoring and inspiring countless students at Davie County High School and West Rowan High School. Roger passed on his passion for woodworking and craftsmanship to his students. I just missed having Roger as my workshop instructor at Davie High, but was lucky enough to have his successor, his son Matt, as my teacher.

Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of representing Rowan County as well as my home county of Davie since 2017. I know firsthand how much appreciation there is for the knowledge and skills that Mr. Wilson passed on to his students. Though he had been retired from teaching for quite some time, I imagine he was encouraged to know that schools have begun to again prioritize teaching the technical, trade, and hands-on skills that seem to have been forgotten over the past few decades.

Madam Speaker, our country needs more dedicated men serving and educating their communities like Roger Wilson. The benefits he brought to students and to his community will be felt for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote on November 17, 2020 for H.R. 4611, the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 221.

HONORING COLE S. CAYLOR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cole S. Caylor. Cole is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cole has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cole has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cole S. Caylor for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
2 MARWAN SAMEH
GHABOUR

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a son of Massachusetts, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marwan Sameh Ghabour. He and four other brave American soldiers tragically lost their lives on Thursday, November 12 while on a peacekeeping mission in Egypt.

Mr. Ghabour will be remembered as a hero for his valiant service and commitment to protecting the freedoms and values that all Americans hold dear. This tragic loss serves as a reminder that when our troops bravely volunteer to serve, both they and their loved ones sacrifice more than we can ever imagine. My heart goes out to Mr. Ghabour's family and friends during this difficult time.

Nevertheless, his legacy is secured by the many people who carry his memory forward. In particular, the residents of Marlborough and Arlington, Massachusetts, where he grew up and volunteered, will remember his passion for public service.

I am grateful for patriots like Mr. Ghabour who risk everything to make the United States and the world a better place and are prepared to give the "last full measure of their devotion," as President Lincoln said. We are fortunate that such brave men and women are among us.

Marwan Sameh Ghabour and his fellow servicemembers will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENEE REYNOLDS

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Renee Reynolds, a Philadelphia difference-maker, before the United States House of Representatives. Ms. Reynolds is a fiercely vocal advocate for women who are battling to beat cancer and who are overcoming domestic violence committed against them.

As she so powerfully puts it, Ms. Reynolds is a domestic violence victor who, for four decades, has used her first-hand experience to fuel her efforts to empower women seeking to change their own difficult and trying situations.

In addition to hosting the annual Pink Diamond Ball to honor the two sisters she lost to cancer and to honor cancer patients, survivors and those that fought the good fight, Ms. Reynolds has sought to expand her ability to spread her message and reach those who need help during the coronavirus pandemic. Among her efforts to do this, she became the Pennsylvania contestant in this year's national Ms. Woman competition, where her platform focused on her advocacy.

Through social media, public speaking, events, partnerships and seemingly more outreach than should be humanly possible, Ms. Reynolds has committed herself to helping people and providing a first-person tale of redemption that highlights her rise from domestic-violence victim to entertainer, business professional and an advocate for women who need a helping hand and inspiration.

Renee Reynolds embodies a commitment to public good. Her efforts are a model for the upwelling of selflessness and giving that has kept America going through these difficult times. She embodies the spirit of Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Renee Reynolds for her extraordinary work on behalf of our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE "FATHER OF THE FINAL
FOUR" TOM JERNSTEDT

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Thomas Walter Jernstedt, a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) legend and tireless advocate for men and women student athletes across the country. Tom was known for many things in his career and life, including being referred to as the "Father of the Final Four." I join Tom's family, friends, colleagues and athletes across the country in mourning the loss of this great man who passed away on September 5, 2020.

Tom was born on November 24, 1944, in Carlton, Oregon. Tom attended Yamhill-Carlton High School, where he was an all-state athlete in three sports: football, basketball and baseball. On top of his incredible athletic ability, he was also elected student body

president. Upon his graduation, Tom attended the University of Oregon on a football scholarship, where he was again elected student body president. He graduated in 1967 with a degree in political science and went on to receive a master's in education in 1973. He worked as an events manager at his alma mater until he accepted a full-time position as director of events for the NCAA.

Tom spent the next 38 years working for the NCAA, as a leader and passionate administrator. According to his colleagues and those who worked closely with Tom, he was known to make time for everyone. He was thoughtful, respectable, likeable, honest and a silent power. He is credited with turning the college basketball championship into what it is today, a massive event with fans all around the world and a multi-billion dollar television contract.

The City of Indianapolis benefited greatly from having a leader like Tom in the sports world. He was influential in moving the NCAA headquarters from Kansas City, Missouri to the City of Indianapolis in 1999. Tom not only assisted in making March Madness what it is, he was key in helping the City of Indianapolis host the Final Four. Indianapolis has hosted seven NCAA Men's Basketball Final Fours and three NCAA Women's Final Fours in its history and is scheduled to host the 2021 and 2026 men's finals as well. Tom was very friendly to the City of Indianapolis in many ways, generating events, promoting the city and, according to his friends, there was never a young person who was interested in a career in sports that Tom would not take under his wing.

Tom received numerous awards throughout his lifetime including being inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017. He received the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001 for his outstanding lifetime dedication to basketball, and the University of Oregon honored him with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame enshrined Tom as a contributor to the game, and in 2017, he was awarded Indiana's highest civilian honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash. Posthumously, Tom was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Though it is obvious Tom had a huge impact on the world of sports, it is said that his greatest joys were in his personal life. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and true friend. In speaking with Tom's friends, there is one consistent theme that they all mention. Tom was a wonderful friend who would stop at nothing to help those he cared about. He loved playing golf and watching all sporting events with his family and friends. Though he loved all sports, he remained a loyal fan of his Oregon Ducks, rarely missing an event involving his university. Based on this long-term commitment, the University of Oregon has established the Tom Jernstedt Student Athlete Scholarship.

I am honored to stand today and memorialize Tom. He was a man of character and class, constantly putting the wants and needs of others before his own. I join his family and many friends as well as countless student-athletes in mourning the loss of Tom Jernstedt.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF VICTOR BIRD

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Bird on his retirement after a remarkable 36-year career in public service to the state of Oklahoma.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree and juris doctorate from the University of Tulsa, Victor is a lifelong Oklahoman. After graduating, he started his career in law with the public sector. Victor's career in public service started in 1983 in the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. From there he served at Oklahoma State University, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and again the Attorney General's office under two different attorney generals. It was through this impressive path that led him to the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission as the Director in 2002. With no previous aviation experience, Victor recognized the importance of the aviation industry for Oklahoma and immediately put his knowledge of the state to work.

After 18 years at the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, few have left such a legacy. As the longest serving director in the state's history, his advocacy and implementations have left a distinctive mark on Oklahoma's role in aviation and aerospace. Under his leadership, the Commission has invested \$71 million in state funds and directed \$189 million in federal funds into airport infrastructure statewide. Victor's pro aviation mindset has led to the growth of the annual economic impact to \$44 billion, which has directly resulted in tens of thousands of jobs. Victor Bird played a key role in shaping aviation to become one of the state's largest industries and top employers.

Victor's career has largely gone unnoticed. He is the first and only Oklahoman to serve as chairman of the National Association of State Aviation Officials in its 90-year history. He is also the first and only non-elected public official to receive the Joseph B. "Doc" Hartranft Jr. Award from the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education for his contributions to career and technology education in Oklahoma. In 2009, Bird was the recipient of the prestigious General Thomas P. Stafford Award, which recognizes those who have made substantial contributions to the Oklahoma aerospace industry and who reflect the revolutionary spirit of Gen. Stafford. Additionally, in 2017, Bird received the Kenneth A. Rowe Ambassador of Aviation Award from NASAO in honor of his national accomplishments. Most recently, in 2020, Victor received the President's Award from the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association for his significant work in Oklahoma aviation.

For four decades, Victor Bird's dedication to Oklahoma has continued to help our state make enormous strides in terms of economic growth and innovation. As we reflect on the 36-year career of Victor Bird, let us look at his tireless work to inspire us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Victor Bird on an extraordinary career and wish him all the best in his much-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MS. JEAN D. THOMPSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy and work of Louisiana Freedom Rider, Ms. Jean D. Thompson. Ms. Thompson made history by participating in the Freedom Rides that helped illuminate persistence segregation in the South despite Morgan v. Virginia and Boynton v. Virginia.

Born in Lake Providence, Louisiana on January 13, 1942, Ms. Thompson was an active member of the NAACP and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Throughout her life, Ms. Thompson participated in a number of sit-ins, was active in Louisiana and Mississippi Freedom Summers, and contributed to anti-war and feminist efforts in San Francisco and Berkeley, California. Starting at the age of 19, her passion and determination made her one of the youngest trailblazers for racial equity.

In response to the federal government's unwillingness to enforce the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions outlawing segregated interstate travel, the Freedom Riders rode integrated buses across state lines in the South to bring awareness to local laws that still required blacks and whites to use separate seating. These intentional actions played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Thompson is a daughter of New Orleans, and without her desegregation efforts, persistence against injustice, and fearlessness, many of us would not be where we are today. It is critically important that we give Ms. Thompson her flowers while she is still here with us so we can celebrate the strides she took to improve racial equality. May we always lift up her name and honor her legacy by continuing to advance equal rights and justice for African Americans and those of African descent all around the world.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and work of Ms. Jean D. Thompson.

CONGRATULATING THE VIENNA EAGLES SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2020 MISSOURI CLASS I STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Eagles softball team for winning the 2020 Missouri Class I State Softball Championship.

This is Vienna High School's third state championship win in the history of their softball program. They should be commended for their hard work and dedication throughout this past year.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Vienna Eagles for a job well done.

HONORING THOMAS J. MANN, IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas J. Mann, IV. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has served his troop as Patrol Leader and earned the rank of Runner in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Thomas has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Thomas built bat houses for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas J. Mann, IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL FIGUEROA

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Samuel Figueroa of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Samuel Figueroa was an outstanding employee who worked at the Creekside Health and Rehabilitation Center in Indianapolis. Having worked at the center since its opening in September 2017, Mr. Figueroa was a dishwasher. We are only aware of his role as dishwasher and are unaware of work in road and building construction. Those who had the opportunity to witness Mr. Figueroa work witnessed a man who took great pride in his job. While on the clock, Mr. Figueroa routinely made others smile and laugh. He was also careful to ensure that the facility was as clean as possible. On many occasions, fellow employees witnessed Samuel scanning the parking lot for trash to dispose of.

By all accounts, Mr. Figueroa was the model employee. Always on time with a smile on his face and willing to go the extra mile, he desired to serve those in need. Mr. Figueroa will be remembered for the wonderful impression he made on his peers, residents and all those who interacted with him on the campus.

The story of Mr. Figueroa is one that is uniquely American. This record is a testament to those ideals he embodied of service and sacrifice, which are inherent to the American spirit. Though Samuel is no longer with us, his spirit of good will and generosity in the halls of Creekside and in the hearts of those whose lives he touched endures.

THANKS BLAKE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a great man and citizen of the Show Me state, Mr. Blake Hurst, as he celebrates his upcoming retirement. Since being elected the President of the Missouri Farm Bureau on December 7, 2010, Blake has helped strengthen the Bureau financially and grow its influence in Washington, D.C.

The Missouri Farm Bureau was founded as the first state Farm Bureau in the United States in 1915, and over the years, it has grown to include over 130,000 members. During his tenure, Blake was a strong advocate for Missouri's farmers. He will be leaving the Missouri Farm Bureau in a stronger position than when he came into office and has ensured the long-term success and influence of the organization.

Blake has been an active member of the Missouri Farm Bureau for much of his life, serving on the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee before becoming the statewide chairman and eventually serving on the state board of directors. For eight years, Hurst served as a district board member for the state of Missouri and seven years as the Vice President of the Bureau. Blake has earned a national reputation as a leader in agriculture policy. Over the years, Blake has written numerous pieces which have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, The American, Weekly Standard, Wilson's Quarterly, Reader's Digest, Today's Farmer, and the Show Me magazine of Missouri Farm Bureau. Hurst continues to be an active member of his community, running a wholesale greenhouse business with his wife, Julie, daughter, Lee, and sons-in-law, Ryan Harms and Matt Schlueter.

I wish Blake the very best as he embarks on this new chapter of life, and I am grateful for his service to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on November 16th and November 17th due to not being present in Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

YES on Roll Call No. 219; YES on Roll Call No. 220; and NO on Roll Call No. 221.

HONORING JERALD MUTCHLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jerald Mutchler. Jerald is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jerald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jerald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jerald has earned the rank of Hardway Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jerald has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jerald helped in with Our Lady of Mercy Country Home Bench Rebuild.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jerald Mutchler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN POTTS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Potts, a member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee, who has retired after 25 years of service in the Federal Government.

Brian earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1994, where he played football and studied accounting. Upon graduation, Brian began his career as part of the Department of the Navy Financial Management Trainee Program. During this time, he worked as an auditor for the Naval Audit Service and as a budget analyst for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). Brian excelled in the program, and he was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence.

After completion of this program, in 1997, Brian joined the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction as a professional staff member. After leaving the Hill briefly to work as an auditor for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Brian returned to the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction. In 2004, Brian moved to the Senate Subcommittee on Defense where he would stay until 2014, at which time he became Minority Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

When the Senate switched control in 2015, Brian was hired to be the Majority Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, a position responsible for a portfolio exceeding \$500 billion in annual spending. In 2019, I asked Brian to become my National Security Advisor on my House Appropriations Committee staff, and he proved to be a trusted advisor. Brian could always be counted on to give great insight into the issues that face our men and women in uniform.

Brian is known for his love of sports, and I know he is enjoying retirement with his son, Owen, and attending his baseball and basketball games. We wish Brian the best in his new adventure and thank him for everything he has done for our nation's security.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE AN ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR EDX TESTING

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will combat bad actors taking advantage of Medicare by requiring an accreditation process for electrodiagnostic studies or EDX testing.

EDX testing is used to diagnose and guide treatment for neuromuscular conditions that range from the uncomfortable, such as carpal tunnel syndrome, to the life threatening, such as ALS and muscular dystrophy. Current Procedural Terminology requires that a clinician trained in EDX testing personally perform invasive needle electromyography and either perform or directly supervise nerve conduction studies. These requirements ensure proper testing is guided in real time based on biofeedback from active study and a knowledge of health history and potential diagnoses.

An ongoing challenge for EDX testing has been an increase of fraud and abuse when mobile labs send "technicians" to provide an excessive number of tests that are often not medically necessary and tend to be performed poorly, providing inaccurate results that are not clinically relevant. A 2014 report by the HHS OIG entitled "Questionable Billing for Medicare Electrodiagnostic Tests" found \$139 million in annual suspicious spending in this area.

This bill will require that professionals performing EDX testing first demonstrate that they have the proper equipment to conduct the test. Second, professionals must demonstrate that they have the proper training to interpret the results by going through an accreditation process managed by government entities and professional societies. Accreditation has been successful in combating fraud in other patient areas such as mammography and sleep labs.

This bill will protect patients seeking treatment by ensuring they receive the most accurate results possible and I strongly urge my colleagues support for its passage.

CELEBRATING THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the longstanding friendship and continued alliance between two great nations: the United States and the Republic of Korea.

Seventy years ago, American and Allied servicemembers and civilians bravely came to the defense of South Korea, fighting alongside so many brave Korean citizens against North Korean aggression. While three long years of bitter conflict yielded only a stalemate, from the shared sacrifice and courage of millions emerged an enduring alliance and friendship between the United States and South Korea

based on a common vision for the world and shared values for our peoples. The Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea endures to this day as a pillar of stability for the entire Indo-Pacific region. And in just the three generations since the Korean War, South Korea has emerged as one of Asia's great success stories, building a dynamic and diverse economy with a vibrant civil society and popular culture celebrated the world over.

However, the relationship between the American and Korean peoples goes even deeper than the Korean War. In 1882, representatives of the United States and the Joseon Dynasty established diplomatic relations between their countries through the Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation. This was the first treaty Korea signed with a Western power, a treaty that first acknowledged Korea's status as an independent country.

My Hawaii has also played and continues to play a major role in the strong relationship between our two countries. In 1903, the first Korean immigrants arrived in the United States through Hawaii, and I am proud of Hawaii's history and present as the gateway for new generations of Korean American immigrants and as a major bridge between our countries and peoples. Today, there are over two million Korean Americans across the United States, with almost 35,000 residing in my home state of Hawaii. It is a true honor to represent such a diverse and accomplished community that has contributed so much to the richness of Hawaii.

Today, this House passed two resolutions recognizing the importance of the U.S.-South Korea alliance. H. Res. 809 expresses the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States, and H. Res. 1012 recognizes the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial, global partnership.

I am proud to support both resolutions and will continue to pursue opportunities to strengthen this crucial relationship, as well as to support Korean American communities in Hawaii and across the country.

Thank you: (Gam-sa-ham-ni-da and mahalo)

RECOGNIZING WAUKEGAN TO COLLEGE

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to rise today to celebrate an amazing program in my community, Waukegan to College, and to honor this year's class: Alexis Valdovinos, Moises Arreola-Malagon, Daisy Camacho, Maurice Davison Jr., Diana Diaz, Justin Garcia, Jesus Murillo, Jose Ochoa, Giselle Palomar, Emilio Salgado, and Gabriela Serna-Gutierrez.

A year-round college readiness service, the Waukegan to College program, or W2C for short, launched in 2009. Over the course of students studies, W2C seeks to advance individual's intellectual and emotional development, cultivating a strong commitment to com-

munity and a profound belief that they can build a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities. By establishing high academic expectations and counseling students and their families on the college application process, W2C helps students realize their full potential by making the dream of college a reality.

All of these students will be the first in their families to attend college, and were selected for the W2C program due to their impressive academic achievements and their contributions to their local communities. As leaders inside and outside the classroom, these students show tremendous dedication and potential.

Strengthening our communities requires building new ladders of opportunity so that all Americans can succeed and thrive. This begins with providing every child, regardless of zip code, access to a high quality, affordable education, and continues by ensuring all families can afford to send their sons and daughters to college.

When our nation's talented young people pursue their passions and follow their dreams, they accomplish far more than personal growth. They serve as role models in their communities and their achievements inspire and motivate other young people to equally strive and achieve.

These students truly are Champions of Change. I wish them the very best of luck in their academic studies and in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JERRY THORNE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Jerry Thorne, on the occasion of his retirement from service to the City of Pleasanton, California, one of the largest cities in my congressional district.

Jerry has made public service a way of life. After completing commitments to the United States Army and the Army National Guard Officer Corps, he left the military holding the rank of captain. He then transitioned into the tech world with a decades-long career in global operations management, facilities design, and environmental engineering for some of the most recognizable names in Silicon Valley. During that time, Jerry settled in Pleasanton, where he has made his home for over 40 years.

His service to the city began in 1995 when Jerry became Parks and Recreation Commissioner. He chaired that commission for ten years before making his first successful run for the Pleasanton City Council. After three terms on the council from 2005 to 2012, he decided to take the reins and run for mayor. He won that race and Jerry dutifully served as mayor of the City of Pleasanton for four two-year terms.

During Jerry's tenure, Pleasanton went through a remarkable period of growth. It is now home to numerous start-up and established technology and biotechnology companies, enabling employees to work near where they want to live. He also helped oversee the

development of several new parks and an aquatic center. And, Jerry has worked to ensure that the city commits to and invests in a high-quality education for Pleasanton's children. This has helped establish Pleasanton Unified School District as one of the premier districts in California.

All the organizations to which Jerry has devoted his time and energy are too numerous to mention. However, I would like to highlight his role as a founding member of the Pleasanton Sentinels of Freedom. This group focuses its efforts on providing opportunities for veterans who have suffered severe injuries as a result of their service. I also appreciate Jerry's guidance as he serves as one of my Service Academy Nomination Board members; that board helps me recommend some of the best and brightest student constituents for admission into some of our country's finest educational institutions and begin careers of service themselves.

I thank Jerry. While I look forward to continuing to work with him on mutual areas of interest in our community, his retirement is well earned, and I hope he is able to enjoy more time at home with his wife, daughter, and grandchildren.

SUPPORTING MOTION TO GO TO
CONFERENCE ON H.R. 6395

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of all the Jackson Lee Amendments made in order for consideration of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

I thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORNBERRY and their staffs for working with me and my staff in consideration of several Jackson Lee Amendments.

I offered several amendments to H.R. 6395 to improve the bill.

Jackson Lee Amendment 180 directs the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress the extent, if any, of the threat to national security posed by domestic terrorist groups and organizations motivated by a belief system of white supremacy, such as the Boogaloo and Proud Boys extremists.

The threat posed by accelerationists and militia extremists—a range of violent anti-government actors, movements, and organizations, some of which branch out of decades-old ideologies and others which are relatively new has led to violent engagement of law enforcement.

My concern is that aftermath of a historic national election, the activity of violence influencers like Boogaloo Boys or Proud Boys will increase and lead to attacks becoming more frequent.

In 2018, we saw too many instances of violent extremists searching for opportunities to sow violence and disrupt democratic processes.

Boogaloo and Proud Boys are targeting constitutionally protected activity for cooption or to provide cover for attacks.

Under the guidance that produced this report, there should not be any activity directed

at groups that are not known for violent activity or have a history of engaging in violence directed at the United States government.

Jackson Lee Amendment 182, directs the Secretary of Defense to report on the number of military bases, installations, and facilities that are named after African Americans; and directs each Secretary responsible for a branch of the military to establish a review process to consider the naming of military installations and covered defense property under the jurisdiction of that Secretary after African Americans who served in the Armed Forces with honor, heroism, and distinction and are deserving of recognition.

I thank my colleagues Representatives BENNIE THOMPSON, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, GREGORY MEEKS, A. DONALD MCEACHIN, MARC VEASEY, STANFORD BISHOP, ANDRÉ CARSON, and JAHANA HAYES for joining as cosponsors of this Amendment.

In every war waged from the Battle of Lexington to the Battle for Fallujah, African Americans have honorably answered the call to duty, and served with valor and distinction in America's armed forces.

The fact that military bases have been named after Confederate military leaders or soldiers is hard to imagine given that they were fighting to end the United States.

The Confederacy was not something that should be held up for honor by the United States or our nation's military.

There is no shortage of honorable replacement candidates to receive the honor of having a military base, installation or facility named in their honor:

UNITED STATES ARMY

1. Gen. Roscoe Robinson, Jr.

General Robinson was a 1951 graduate of West Point who attended the service academy before the Army was desegregated. Robinson served in Korea and Vietnam, with valor decorations in both conflicts, and as a training officer as part of the U.S. military support mission in Liberia. He went on to become the first black commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, deputy chief of staff for operations in U.S. Army Europe, commander of U.S. Forces Japan, the U.S. representative on the NATO Military Committee, and the first black four-star general in the Army.

2. William Harvey Carney

William Carney was the first African American recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, which he received for his actions on July 18, 1863 at Fort Wagner, SC while a member of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment in the Civil War—the state's first all-black regiment.

The 54th Massachusetts was the subject of the film, "Glory," starring Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman.

3. Lieutenant Colonel Charity Edna Adams

Lieutenant Colonel Charity Edna Adams was appointed to lead the African American Women's Army Corps unit designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, which became known as the "Six Triple Eight."

This unit was instrumental in establishing and maintaining morale because it assured that mail from the battlefield and the home-front flowed efficiently and timely.

4. Lt. Col. Margaret E. Bailey

In 1964, Margaret E. Bailey, Army Nurse Corps, was the first nurse to be promoted to lieutenant colonel.

UNITED STATES NAVY

1. Dorie Miller Messman First Class and Admiral Michelle Howard.

Dorie Miller, Messman First Class was serving in a noncombat role in the Navy, Dorie Miller responded heroically when the battleship *West Virginia* was attacked at Pearl Harbor. He was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross, the third highest honor awarded by the U.S. Navy at the time.

2. Admiral Michelle Howard

Admiral Michelle Howard is a four-star Admiral and one of the highest-ranking African American women ever to serve in any branch of the military. Admiral Howard is also the first African American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship, the USS *Rushmore*.

She is the Navy's second highest ranking officer and is currently serving as the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Africa, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

THE AIR FORCE

1. Lt. Col. Shawna Rochelle-Kimbrell

In 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Kimbrell became the first female African American fighter pilot in the Air Force history. Her flights in Northern Watch marked her as the first female pilot to fly combat missions for Misawa's 35th Fighter Wing, and the first African American woman to employ ordinance in combat. She has more than 1,110 hours in the F-16, including 176 hours of combat time.

2. Colonel Ruth A. Lucas

Colonel Lucas was the first African American woman in the Air Force to be promoted to the rank of colonel. At the time of her retirement in 1970, she was the highest-ranking African American woman in the Air Force.

3. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

In 1959 General Benjamin O. Davis became the first African American Major General in the United States Air Force. In 1943, he organized and commanded the 332nd Fighter Group known as the Tuskegee Airmen. General Davis received many decorations during his career, including two Distinguished Service Medals and a Silver Star. On December 9, 1998, General Davis was awarded his fourth general's star by President Bill Clinton.

THE COAST GUARD

1. Alex Haley

Chief Petty Officer Haley is best known for writing letters for his shipmates and his short stories and articles, which got him promoted to Chief Journalist of the Coast Guard in 1959. Haley ultimately received a number of military honors, including the American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal and an honorary degree from the Coast Guard Academy. And most of you know him also as the author of "Roots."

2. Bobby C. Wilks

In 1957, Captain Bobby Wilks became the first African American Coast Guard aviator. He later became the first African American to reach the rank of Captain and the first to command a Coast Guard air station. He accumulated over 6,000 flight hours in 18 different types of aircrafts.

Twenty-five percent of the today's military is comprised of persons of color, of which 17.8 percent are African American.

In 2017, blacks made up 17 percent of the DOD active-duty military—somewhat higher than their share of the U.S. population ages 18 to 44 (13 percent). Blacks have consistently been represented in greater shares

among enlisted personnel (19 percent in 2015) than among the commissioned officers (9 percent).

Jackson Lee Amendment 179 implements a recommendation made by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to implement Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance (DMARC) standard across U.S.-based email providers to increase the security of email.

I thank my Colleagues Congressmen LANDEVIN, GALLAGHER, KATKO, and JOYCE for joining this bipartisan amendment to the FY 2021 NDAA.

The security of email has grown in importance as it has become in many ways the primary way that businesses, consumers, government communicate.

Jackson Lee Amendment 183 provides authorization for a \$10 million increase in funding for increased collaboration with NIH to combat Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

As a Member of Congress, a mother, a sister and a spouse, and a breast cancer survivor, I feel a special responsibility to do all I can to ensure every American can win in the fight against all types of breast cancer, especially triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

About 10 to 20 percent of breast cancers test negative for both hormone receptors and HER2 in the lab, which means they are triple-negative.

Studies have shown that triple-negative breast cancer is more likely to spread beyond the breast and more likely to recur (come back) after treatment.

These risks appear to be greatest in the first few years after treatment.

Jackson Lee Amendment 181 provides authorization for \$2.5 million increase in funding to combat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

According to the NIH, an estimated 3.6 percent of U.S. adults had PTSD in the past year.

PTSD was first brought to public attention in relation to war veterans, but it can result from a variety of traumatic incidents, such as torture, being kidnapped or held captive, bombings, or natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

This amendment will help ensure that “no soldier is left behind” by addressing the urgent need for more outreach toward hard to reach veterans suffering from PTSD, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas of our country.

I urge my colleagues to support all of these Jackson Lee Amendments.

HONORING JACK T. CHIRPICH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack T. Chirpich. Jack is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jack has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jack has been involved with

scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jack T. Chirpich for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING COLE COUNTY MISSOURI ON THE COMMEMORATION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cole County, Missouri, on the commemoration of its Bicentennial.

Located in the heart of Missouri, Cole County was founded in 1820 and named after the fearless pioneer Captain Stephan Cole. Starting with a small community of nearly 1,028 people, Cole County now has a population of around 80,000. This growth is combined with a rich history that outlines the story of the heartland of Missouri.

Shortly after President Monroe signed the Missouri Compromise on March 6, 1820 inducing Missouri into the Union the first Missouri Constitution was written. Alexander McNair was elected Governor, Thomas Hart Benton and David Barton were elected as U.S. Senators and the first Missouri General Assembly comprised of 14 state senators and 43 state representatives was formed. On November 16, 1820 Cole County was established and five years later Jefferson City was founded. In 1826 Jefferson City officially became the capital of Missouri and has been home to the state legislature and governor ever since.

Moving forward in history, throughout the 1840s and into the 1890s Cole County saw massive population growth lead by an influx of German immigration to America. Many came seeking religious freedom, independence and fertile land. From their many tightly bound communities began to grow and develop, many centering around their respective churches.

This year, Cole County will celebrate by placing a special commemorative monument at the trailhead of Katy trail as well as several other smaller events to commemorate this historic event. In these unprecedented times, it is important now more than ever to come together and celebrate our shared history and roots in this great nation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Cole County on their 200th Anniversary. May their rich history continue to be the foundation for an undoubtedly bright future.

CONGRATULATING BOONE MEADOW ELEMENTARY A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding

school in my district that is being honored as a National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Boone Meadow Elementary in Zionsville, Indiana, in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked very hard to ensure our children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all these reasons and many more, I am very proud that Boone Meadow Elementary is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers with an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 367 schools were designated as 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 367 schools, Boone Meadow was one of only eight Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Boone Meadow is a school that is not only committed to its students, but is committed to the teachers, staff and parents of their community. They are committed to creating an environment that allows students to grow into the leaders of tomorrow. I want to personally congratulate principal Tom Hundley for leading this school to this well-deserved honor.

As an advocate for education and youth, I recognize how important it is for our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Boone Meadow give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Boone Meadow Elementary School. I am very proud of them.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7047–S7089

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4905–4922, S.J. Res. 77–80, and S. Res. 777–779.

Pages S7076–77

Measures Passed:

Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office: Senate passed S. 2847, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the “Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office”. **Page S7081**

Einar ‘Sarge’ H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 3257, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the “Einar ‘Sarge’ H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building”. **Page S7081**

Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1833, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, New York, as the “Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building”. **Page S7081**

Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3207, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building”. **Page S7081**

Scipio A. Jones Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 3317, to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones. **Page S7081**

Paul Eaton Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3329, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the “Paul Eaton Post Office Building”. **Page S7081**

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 4794, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building”. **Page S7081**

Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 4981, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the “Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office”. **Page S7081**

Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 5037, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the “Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office”. **Page S7081**

Audie Murphy Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 3461, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, as the “Audie Murphy Post Office Building”. **Page S7081**

Ralph Hall Post Office: Senate passed S. 3462, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, as the “Ralph Hall Post Office”. **Page S7081**

Opha May Johnson Post Office: Senate passed S. 3839, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2719 South Webster Street in Kokomo, Indiana, as the “Opha May Johnson Post Office”. **Pages S7081–82**

Joseph G. Demler Post Office: Senate passed S. 4126, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, as the “Joseph G. Demler Post Office”. **Page S7082**

Ernest ‘Ernie’ T. Pyle Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 4734, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the “Ernest ‘Ernie’ T. Pyle Post Office”. **Page S7082**

Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 5384, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Crosby Street in Mansfield, Louisiana, as the “Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office”. **Page S7082**

Seniors Fraud Prevention Act: Senate passed S. 512, to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors.

Page S7082

Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act: Senate passed S. 2904, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S7082–83

National Native American Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 779, recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

Page S7083

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 20, 2020, at 8:15 a.m.; Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 12:15 p.m.; Friday, November 27, 2020, at 3:15 p.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 27, 2020, it next convene at 3:00 p.m., on Monday, November 30, 2020.

Page S7083

McNeel Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Taylor B. McNeel, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, November 30, 2020.

Page S7083

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at 5 p.m., on Monday, November 30, 2020; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, ripen following disposition of the nomination.

Page S7083

Calabrese Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of J. Philip Calabrese, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Page S7067

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, November 18, 2020, a

vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Taylor B. McNeel, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Page S7067

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

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

Page S7067

Hauptman Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board.

Page S7067

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of J. Philip Calabrese, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Page S7067

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S7067

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

Page S7067

Davis Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Page S7067

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board.

Page S7067

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S7067

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

Page S7067

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 49 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 237), Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Pages S7047–59

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 236), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S7050–51

By 49 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 239), Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Pages S7059–64

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 238), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S7059

Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2022.

Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for the term of five years.

Pages S7067–68

Lisa S. Kenna, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru.

Thomas Laszlo Vajda, of Arizona, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Union of Burma.

Melanie Harris Higgins, of Georgia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi.

Jeanne Marie Maloney, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini.

James Broward Story, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Michael A. McCarthy, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia.

Pages S7068–69

5 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Coast Guard and Foreign Service.

Page S7068

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

78 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army and Navy.

Pages S7083–89

Messages from the House:

Pages S7073–74

Measures Referred:

Page S7073

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S7074–75

Executive Communications:

Page S7075

Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S7076

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7077–78

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S7078–80

Additional Statements:

Page S7073

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S7080

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—239)

Pages S7051, S7059, S7064

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:34 p.m., until 8:15 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7083.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1031, to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1166, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to make grants for the establishment or expansion of internet exchange facilities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3730, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize and modernize the registered traveler program of the Transportation Security Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3824, to require the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors;

S. 3969, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reform the Federal Aviation Administration's aircraft certification process, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4472, to amend the Secure and Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program to include eligible telecommunications carriers and providers of educational broadband service, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4719, to provide, temporarily, authority for the Secretary of Commerce to waive cost sharing requirements for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, with an amendment;

S. 4803, to make the 3450–3550 MHz spectrum band available for non-Federal use;

S. 4827, to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Space Commerce to provide space situational awareness data, information, and services to non-United States Government entities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4847, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States;

S. 4884, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, with amendments; and

Routine lists in the Coast Guard.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Allison Clements, of Ohio, and Mark C. Christie, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine H.R. 823 and S. 241, bills to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1695, to amend the Wilderness Act to allow local Federal officials to determine the manner in which non-motorized uses may be permitted in wilderness areas, S. 2804, to promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, S. 2875, to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, S. 3492, to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for use as a national cemetery, S. 4215, to designate and adjust certain lands in the State of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, S. 4569, to modify the boundary of the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument in the State of Arizona, S. 4599, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 4603, to promote the use of forest restoration residue harvested on National Forest System land for renewable energy, S. 4616, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to the State of South Dakota, S. 4625, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western United States, S. 4696, to provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, and S. 4889, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to

increase the dividend exclusion, to exclude certain payments to Alaska Native elders for determining eligibility for certain programs, to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, and to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under that Act, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interests in land in the State of Alaska, after receiving testimony from Chris French, Deputy Chief, Forest System, National Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Michael Nedd, Deputy Director, Operations, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Art Babbott, Coconino County, Flagstaff, Arizona; and Susan Jane M. Brown, Western Environmental Law Center, Eugene, Oregon.

MODERNIZING FEDERAL TELEWORK

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management concluded a hearing to examine modernizing Federal telework, focusing on moving forward using the lessons learned during the COVID–19 pandemic, after receiving testimony from Michelle B. Rosenberg, Acting Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Keith Washington, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Administration; Sydney T. Rose, Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Administration and Management; and Jim Borland, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Systems, and Deputy Chief Information Officer for IT Operations, Social Security Administration.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 790, to clarify certain provisions of Public Law 103–116, the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3264, to expedite and streamline the deployment of affordable broadband service on Tribal land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4079, to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land, and

S. 4556, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Young and Braun, Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., and Katherine A. Crytzer, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, both introduced by Senator Alexander, Joseph Dawson III, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, who was introduced by Senator Scott (SC), and Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, who was introduced by Senator Cruz, and Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 8769–8780; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 1227 were introduced. **Pages H5931–32**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5932–33**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 631, for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar (H. Rept. 116–595);

H.R. 4225, for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–596);

H.R. 7146, for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez (H. Rept. 116–597); and

H.R. 7572, for the relief of Median El-Moustrah (H. Rept. 116–598). **Page H5931**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5869**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:46 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5874**

Decorum Statement: The Chair announced that under clause 2 of rule 1, as previously stated on July 29, 2020, the Chair is required to preserve order and decorum in the Chamber. The Chair advised that all Members should leave the Chamber promptly after casting their votes and that Members should avoid congregating in the rooms leading into the Chamber, including the Speaker's Lobby. The Chair issued

a reminder that the current practice of providing small groups of Members with a minimum of 5 minutes within to cast their votes would continue. After voting, Members must clear the Chamber to allow the next group a safe and sufficient opportunity to vote. The Chair stated that it is essential for the health and safety of Members, staff, and the U.S. Capitol Police to consistently practice social distancing, and to ensure that a safe capacity be maintained in the Chamber at all times. The Sergeant-at-Arms is directed to enforce this policy. The Chair stated that the announcement of July 29, 2020, regarding the wearing of masks in the Hall of the House remains in effect. Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask. Masks will be available at entry points for any Member who forgets to bring one. The Chair also reaffirmed the Chair views the failure to wear a mask as a serious breach of decorum. **Page H5875**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Condemning acts by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that violate fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy: H. Res. 1033, amended, condemning acts by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that violate fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts

that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy;
Pages H5877–78

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Condemning acts by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that violate fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy.";
Page H5878

Recognizing the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the Tibetan people and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding: H. Res. 697, amended, recognizing the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the Tibetan people and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding;
Pages H5878–80

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Affirming the significance of the advocacy for genuine autonomy for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding.";
Page H5880

Securing America From Epidemics Act: H.R. 6334, amended, to authorize United States participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations;
Pages H5880–82

Reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond: H. Res. 349, amended, reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;
Pages H5882–83

Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States: H. Res. 809, amended, expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States;
Pages H5883–84

Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war and the transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial, global partnership: H. Res. 1012, amended, recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war and the transformation of the United States-Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial, global partnership;
Pages H5884–86

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Recognizing the historic transformation of the United

States-Republic of Korea alliance since the Korean War into a mutually beneficial, global partnership.";
Page H5886

Libya Stabilization Act: H.R. 4644, amended, to clarify United States policy toward Libya, advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya, and support the people of Libya;
Pages H5886–92

Affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship: H. Res. 1062, amended, affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship;
Pages H5892–93

Fighting Emerging Narcotics Through Additional Nations to Yield Lasting Results Act: H.R. 7990, amended, to prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances;
Pages H5893–95

East Africa Locust Eradication Act: H.R. 7276, amended, to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to eradicate locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization;
Pages H5895–97

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes.";
Page H5897

Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act: H.R. 5586, amended, to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti and the strength of democracy and rule of law in the country;
Pages H5897–H5900

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To measure the progress of recovery and efforts to address corruption, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti.";
Page H5900

Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act: H.R. 7703, amended, to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience;
Pages H5900–02

Expressing support of the Three Seas Initiative in its efforts to increase energy independence and infrastructure connectivity thereby strengthening the United States and European national security: H. Res. 672, amended, expressing support of the

Three Seas Initiative in its efforts to increase energy independence and infrastructure connectivity thereby strengthening the United States and European national security;
Pages H5902–04

Condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response: H. Res. 1145, amended, condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response;
Pages H5904–07

Prohibiting Russian participation in the G7: H.R. 8259, amended, to prohibit Russian participation in the G7;
Pages H5907–09

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), recognizing the importance of the NPT's continued contributions to United States and international security, and commemorating United States leadership in strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime since the dawn of the nuclear era: H. Res. 825, amended, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), recognizing the importance of the NPT's continued contributions to United States and international security, and commemorating United States leadership in strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime since the dawn of the nuclear era;
Pages H5909–11

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Urging the United States to continue to be a leader in supporting the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the global nonproliferation regime to reap the benefits the NPT and such regime bring to United States and international security.”;
Pages H5910–11

Partnering and Leveraging Assistance to Stop Trash for International Cleaner Seas Act: H.R. 4636, amended, to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prioritize and advance efforts to improve waste management systems and prevent and reduce plastic waste and marine debris;
Pages H5911–13

American Values and Security in International Athletics Act: H.R. 8405, to direct the Department of State to ensure persons representing the United States in international athletic competitions in certain countries are appropriately informed;
Pages H5913–15

Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020: H.R. 8438, amended, to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004;
Pages H5915–20

Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act: H.R. 5408, amended, to oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia;
Pages H5920–21

Amending the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Department of State's rewards program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions: H.R. 4802, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Department of State's rewards program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions; and
Pages H5921–22

Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020: H.R. 7954, to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.
Pages H5922–23

Recess: The House recessed at 4:03 p.m. and reconvened at 5:01 p.m.
Page H5924

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021—Motion to go to Conference: The House agreed by unanimous consent to take from the Speakers table the bill H.R. 6395, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year and ask for its immediate consideration in the House; disagree to the Senate amendment and request a conference with the Senate thereon.
Page H5924

Agreed to the Smith (WA) motion to close portions of the conference by a yea-and-nay vote of 396 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 222.
Page H5924

The Chair appointed the following conferees: From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Smith of Washington, Davis of California, Langevin, Larsen of Washington, Cooper, Courtney, Garamendi, Speier, Norcross, Gallego, Moulton, Carbajal, Brown of Maryland, Khanna, Keating, Vela, Kim, Kendra S. Horn of Oklahoma, Cisneros, Thornberry, Wilson of South Carolina, Turner, Rogers of Alabama, Lamborn, Wittman, Hartzler, Austin Scott of Georgia, Stefanik, Kelly of Mississippi, Gallagher, Bacon, and Banks. **Page H5925**

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule 10: Representatives Schiff, Sewell of Alabama, and Nunes.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of secs. 3601 and 3602 of the House bill, and sec. 1053 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Peterson, Spanberger, and Conaway.

Page H5925

From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of secs. 1002 and 8003 of the House bill, and secs. 4, 126, and 1086 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Morelle, Horsford, and Stewart.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of secs. 212, 279, 569, 570, 1110, 1791, 1797, 1833, and 1834 of the House bill, and secs. 516, 561–63, 565, 566, 1090, 5211, 6047, 6091, and 6615 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Scott of Virginia, Trahan, and Guthrie.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 223, 229, 332, 335, 535, 540H, 601, 705, 736, 1299N–2, 1641, 1760, 1761, 1772, 1793, 1821, 1823, 1824, 2835, 3201, 3511, 3601, 5101–04, 5109, 10306, and 11206 of the House bill, and secs. 311, 319, 703, 1053, 1091, 1092, 1094, 1098, 1099, 2841, 3121, 3125, 3131, 3132, 5239, 6082–84, subtitle I of title 60 of division E, secs. 6299F, 6614, 6704, and 6706 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Pallone, DeGette, and Walden.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of secs. 902, 1248, 1249, 1299 R–9, 1768, 1776, 1779, 1790, 1792, 1798, 1803, 1808, 1812, subtitles H and I of title 17 of division A, and divisions G, J, K, and M of the House bill, and secs. 1706–10 and 6231 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Waters, Vargas, and Luetkemeyer.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 213, 843, subtitle C of title 11 of division A, secs. 1202, 1203, 1207, 1221–24, 1231–33, 1238, 1248, 1249, 1251, 1260D, 1260E, 1261, 1266, 1272–74, 1276, 1280, 1286, 1290–92, 1294, 1296, 1299, 1299B, 1299G, 1299H, 1299K, subtitles H–K of title 12 of division A, secs. 1299Q–1, 1299Q–2, subtitle M of title 12 of division A, secs. 1299T–4, 1299T–5, 1521, 1640F, 1659, 1757, 1759, 1823, and division I of the House bill, and secs. 1201–03, 1205–07, 1210,

1213, subtitle C of title 12 of division A, secs. 1231–33, 1236, 1240, 1241, 1251, 1253–56, 1263, 1281, 1283, 1286, 1287, subtitle H of title 12 of division A, subtitle C of title 15 of division A, sec. 1661, title 17 of division A, secs. 6231, 6251, 6284, 6286, 6293–96, 6299, 6299A, 6299B, 6299D, and 6299 F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Engel, Sherman, and McCaul.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of secs. 1630, 1631, 1637, 1640A, 1640D, 1640F, 1760, 1784, 1793, 1804, and 9508 of the House bill, and secs. 6088, 6096D, 6613, and 6614 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Torres Small of New Mexico, Slotkin, and Green of Tennessee.

Page H5925

From the Committee on House Administration, for consideration of secs. 536, 1101, and 1751 of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Lofgren, Fudge, and Rodney Davis of Illinois.

Page H5925

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 281, 540D, 814, 1055, 1215, 1299O–6, 1299T–4, 1299T–5, 1640A, 1731, 1733, 1762, and 1763 of the House bill, and secs. 1296 and 6088 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Nadler, Mucarsel-Powell, and Steube.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 601, 626, 627, 17 44, 1794, 1795, 2834–36, subtitle E of title 28 of division B, and divisions O and P of the House bill, and secs. 315, 2861–63, 2887, 6081, and 7861 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Grijalva, Haaland, and Bishop of Utah.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of secs. 373, 813, 815, 825, 830B, 833, 848, 1101, 1102, 1104, 1105, 1108, 1111, 1114, 1115, subtitles B and C of title 11 of division A, secs. 1635, 1639, 1640C, subtitle B of title 17 of division A, secs. 1744, 1745, 1769, 1770, 1774, 1793, 1808, 9208, and 11410 of the House bill, and secs. 631, 1103–06, 1109–13, 5244, 6047, and 9306 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Lynch, and Comer.

Page H5925

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sec. 229, subtitle D of title 2 of division A, secs. 327, 333, 341, 1744, 1771, 1806, 1807, 1821, 1824, 1825, division E, secs. 5502 and 10104 of the House bill, and secs. 318, 1098, 1099, subtitle C of title 52 of division

E, secs. 5231–38, and 6087 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Johnson of Texas, Sherrill, and Garcia of California. **Page H5925**

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 831–33, 835–40, 840A, 841, 844, and 1633 of the House bill, and secs. 871, 872, 1642, 5871–75, and 5877 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Velazquez, Golden, and Chabot. **Page H5925**

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 311, 312, 332, 560G, 601, 829, 8308, 912, 1101, 1732, 1750, 1760, 1768, 1809, 3501, 3504, 3505, 3507–09, 3510C, 3510D, 5103, and division H of the House bill, and secs. 178, 1087, 1635, 3501, 5237, 5246, 6089, and subtitle I of title 60 of division E of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Huffman, Rouda, and Gibbs. **Page H5925**

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of secs. 525, 534, 535, 540A, 5408, 540C, 540E, 540H, 546, 551–53, 560B, 560E, 560F, 560G, 560H, 718, 724, 731, 734, 750H, 752–54, 760, 831, 1101, 1411, 1764, 1790, 1802, and 5502 of the House bill, and secs. 741, 744, 753, 762–64, 935, 1089, 1090A, 10908, 1421, and 6085 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Takano, Lamb, and Bilirakis. **Page H5925**

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of secs. 1276, 7103, and 7104 of the House bill, and sec. 6003 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Neal, Panetta, and Wenstrup. **Page H5925**

Senate Referrals: S. 4902 was held at the desk. S. 2216 was held at the desk. **Pages H5923–24**

Senate Message: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H5923–24.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H5924.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Committee Meetings

KARSHI-KHANABAD: HONORING THE HEROES OF CAMP STRONGHOLD FREEDOM

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing entitled “Karshi-Khanabad: Honoring the Heroes of Camp Stronghold Freedom”. Testimony was heard from Patricia

R. Hastings, Chief Consultant, Post Deployment Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs; and David J. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Readiness, Policy and Oversight, Department of Defense.

EXAMINING THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD'S ROLE IN ENSURING A ROBUST PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “Examining the Surface Transportation Board's Role in Ensuring a Robust Passenger Rail System”. Testimony was heard from Ann D. Begeman, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board; Martin J. Oberman, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Senate Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a closed pass-the-gavel/general provisions panel meeting with the House Committee on Armed Services to examine H.R. 6395, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on United Arab Emirates arms sales, 11 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine an essential part of a COVID–19 solution, focusing on an early at home treatment, 9 a.m., SD–342/WEBEX.

House

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled “Insuring Against a Pandemic: Challenges and Solutions for Policyholders and Insurers”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

8:15 a.m., Friday, November 20

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, November 19

Senate Chamber

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

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Begin Consideration of H.R. 8294—National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 (Subject to a Rule).

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