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## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, who desires us to prosper and experience health, give our Nation such a harvest of righteousness that our land will be filled with peace, quietness, and unity. Use our lawmakers to enable our citizens to live in safety, confidence, and peace.

As our Senators seek to serve You and country, give them the wisdom and courage to bring harmony from discord. Lord, be merciful to them as they wait with eager expectancy for Your guidance.

May they honor the promises they make, living lives that reflect the integrity of Your Kingdom.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

### GIVING TUESDAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving has been known as Giving Tuesday. I suppose this Giving Tuesday is receiving more attention than usual because of the virus pandemic that we have been in for the last 12 months. Like many sec-

tors, the nonprofit industry is hurting because of COVID-19.

As part of the CARES Act passed last March, Congress enacted key provisions encouraging charitable giving to help support organizations that are being called upon more than ever to help Americans because of the virus pandemic. These charitable giving provisions that are in the CARES Act apply both to individuals who itemize their taxes and those who do not itemize.

Iowa is blessed to have an extensive network of charitable organizations that are supported by incredible volunteers who open up their pocketbooks to support their neighbors in need. This fall, Senator ERNST and I heard from at least 20 nonprofits in the Cedar Rapids area about the challenges that they face because of the pandemic and natural disasters, and also we heard of the successes they have had this year.

The work that Iowa nonprofits do is inspiring and has tremendous impact. In this season of Thanksgiving, I speak on behalf of my own State to thank these organizations, their employees, and volunteers for the hard work and services that they deliver every day of the year to Iowans in need.

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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, anyone who has heard me speak about coronavirus relief going back months has heard one central principle: Let's deliver right away on all the subjects where everybody agrees and argue over the rest later. The solution to this impasse has been in plain sight for a long time now for anybody willing to see it: Agree where we agree, bank that progress, make law, take a whole lot of pressure off struggling people, and then keep debating the areas where we don't agree.

There is no actual reason why the fates of commonsense policies like a second round of the job-saving Paycheck Protection Program had to be linked to the fates of fringe proposals like stimulus checks for illegal immigrants. There is no reason why the fate of funding for vaccine distribution or extending unemployment aid or legal certainties for universities should have been tied to radical ideas like paying people more not to work than essential workers earn on the job.

These linkages have been totally arbitrary, just a political decision that Democratic leaders made many months back. Democratic leaders have tried to create a narrative where it is taken for granted that the most bipartisan, commonsensical relief policies would live or die with their side's most outlandish ideas. Well, that just isn't so.

They have tried to create a dynamic where they move from one made-up number to a second slightly smaller arbitrary number and call it a meaningful concession. The truth is simple. This has always been about policy differences. We have two sides with two different visions for the best way to support our Nation through what we hope will be the last chapter of the pandemic.

That isn't new. We have disagreements all the time. Our system can handle disagreements, but both sides have to be willing to compile their

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



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commonalities and make law here, and, up to now, our Democratic colleagues have declined to do that.

Remember, their side said in March this pandemic was “a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.” So when Republicans tried to pass commonsense relief measures in July, in September, and in October, as well, our Democratic colleagues actually blocked policies they do not even oppose.

It has been heartening to see a few hopeful signs in the past few days. After months of arbitrary attachment to sky-high dollar amounts that the Speaker of the House claimed were essential—that it would be an insult to settle for a nickel less—those baseless claims have suddenly evaporated.

That is at least movement in the right direction, but the underlying reality is still with us. There are many important policies that have strong bipartisan support. There are many others that do not, and the way to help the country is for our Democratic colleagues to finally let the former group be signed into law while we keep arguing over the rest.

The targeted second round of paycheck protection that we have been trying to establish since July would help a huge number of small businesses survive to the finish line and help huge numbers of workers to keep their jobs. And it can pass the Senate today, probably with 95 votes.

With the apparent success of Operation Warp Speed, it makes no sense to skimp on the systems to distribute and deliver vaccines around the country. Those funds could pass the Senate today, possibly unanimously.

University presidents have made it clear they need certainty for their reopenings. Let me say that again. University presidents have made it clear they need legal certainty for their reopenings. That shouldn't be partisan. Liability protections should be able to pass the Senate today.

A number of our Democratic colleagues have focused especially on several of the unemployment relief programs that are set to expire in a matter of days. I specifically made sure to include those programs in my framework a few days ago. That extension could pass the Senate today.

The House of Representatives is spending this week on pressing issues like marijuana—marijuana—you know, serious and important legislation befitting this national crisis. But here in the Senate, I put forward a serious and highly targeted relief proposal including the elements which we know the President is ready and willing to sign into law. Why should these impactful and noncontroversial life preservers be delayed one second longer?

At long last, let's do what Congress does when we want an outcome. Let's make law on all the subjects where we agree and on all the areas where President Trump is ready to sign bipartisan relief into law.

I promise, our deep differences will still be here to debate. Our disagreements will be right where we left them. But do you know what can't wait? What can't wait are American workers, American small businesses, K-12 schools, the vulnerable Americans and frontline healthcare workers for whom speedy vaccine distribution will literally be a life-or-death matter.

Yesterday, my home State of Kentucky experienced yet another dreadful—dreadful—record-setting day. But Kentuckians also know that hope is in sight. Our State's workers are standing by at the UPS Worldport in Louisville and the DHL Express American Hub in northern Kentucky, key logistics centers that will play crucial roles in sending vaccines all around the country.

Our people are hurting, but they are ready to finish this fight. Congress should not keep them waiting for reinforcements that should have arrived literally months ago.

So compromise is within reach. We know where we agree. We can do this. Let me say it again. We can do this, and we need to do this. So let's be about actually making a law.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Waller, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2016.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. THUNE. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I was pleased that the Senate unanimously agreed yesterday to proceed to conference on the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

The NDAA is one of the most important pieces of legislation that we pass here every year. It is the bill that authorizes funding for our troops and lays out our defense priorities.

Like the last two NDAA's, this year's bill focuses on restoring military readiness and ensuring that our Nation is prepared to meet threats posed by major powers like Russia and China.

In November of 2018, the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission released a report warning that our readiness had eroded to the point that we might struggle to win a war against a major power like Russia or China, and the Commission noted that we would be especially vulnerable if we were ever called on to fight a war on two fronts.

Over the past 2 years, we have made real progress on restoring military readiness, but we still have more work to do.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act continues our investment in ensuring that our military is prepared to meet current and future threats in any domain.

Of course, no matter what weapons or tanks or planes we have, our greatest military resource will always be our men and women in uniform, and this year's NDAA invests in improving the quality of life for our military members and their families. The bill supports a 3-percent pay raise for our troops, and it builds on previous measures to improve military healthcare and housing. It will also provide support for our military families in areas like childcare and professional development for military spouses.

As I said, this bill is one of the most important measures that we pass every year, and we need to make sure that we pass the final version of this legislation before Christmas. Failing to pass this legislation would send the wrong message to our troops and our allies and to our adversaries.

While this may not be a perfect bill, it contains a lot of important provisions to rebuild our military and to give our men and women in uniform the tools they need to defend our Nation. We need to pass it as soon as possible.

##### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ENZI

Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, MIKE ENZI delivered his farewell address. While MIKE has more than earned his retirement over a long and dedicated career in Washington and in Wyoming, we are going to miss him here in the U.S. Senate.

MIKE is an accountant and spent years as a small business man, and he brought that background and common sense to Washington, DC, with him.

In many ways, he has been the conscience of the Senate on spending issues, reminding us that we don't have an unlimited amount of money to spend and that every dollar we add to the debt is a burden that will have to be met by our children and grandchildren.

As chairman of the Budget Committee, he has passed budgets with an eye to restraining spending and lessening the burden we place on future generations. His 2018 budget also paved the way for the landmark Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which reformed America's outdated Tax Code, helped create jobs and opportunities for workers, and put more money in the pockets of American families.

MIKE is an outstanding legislator, and he is also one of the finest human beings you will ever meet. I think all of us have benefited from his thoughtfulness at one time or another. I remember when I was experiencing heel pain a few years ago with an ailment called plantar fasciitis, and I mentioned it to MIKE because he was a shoe salesman and a shoe store owner. It wasn't more than a few days later when MIKE came to me with some heel inserts to put into my shoes, which, I might add, helped a lot. Obviously, he had a lot of experience through the years dealing with people with foot issues. But it was typical of MIKE ENZI—thoughtful and practical, down-to-earth.

In business, as everyone knows, the customer comes first, and MIKE has brought that attitude to his 24 years here in the U.S. Senate. As a shoe salesman, he put his customers first, and as a Senator, he always put his constituents and the American people first. He has never forgotten how to help people. He has never forgotten where he comes from. He has worked hard every day that he has been here in the Senate to make life better for the people of Wyoming and for American citizens.

He is an outstanding colleague and a friend, and I will miss his wisdom and expertise—and his great fishing stories.

MIKE, I wish you the very best of everything in your retirement. I am glad you will have more time to spend with Diana and the kids and grandkids and more time to enjoy your beloved home State of Wyoming. While no State will ever compare to South Dakota in my book, I have to say that Wyoming is spectacularly beautiful, and I am glad you will be able to be there now on more of a full-time basis. But you will be missed here. I want to thank you for your service and your friendship. May God bless you and your family in your retirement.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the floor.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to talk a little bit about what is happening in Nevada. Last week, I had the opportunity to be home, and I went to one of our mobile

food banks in East Las Vegas just before Thanksgiving. The mobile food bank is one of our food pantries throughout the State of Nevada, and this particular one is run by Three Square. I arrived around 8 a.m. in the morning to a line of cars waiting at the site. That line sometimes gets so long, police have to direct traffic around it. Literally, they lined up at 3 a.m. The food pantry doesn't even open until 7 or 8 in the morning, but they were there at 3 a.m., around the block, in their cars to stay safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. There were over 350 of them throughout that morning. That is not unusual with what is happening in Nevada right now. That is not unusual, and it should be, but because this pandemic has hit Nevada and so many States so hard, we are seeing the consequences of inaction by this body in the Senate.

As I got there that morning, I imagined those people in the middle of the night with their lights and power off in their cars to save fuel in the cold desert night. And they waited patiently. They were quiet because they knew assistance would be there when morning came. And sometimes that food runs out for those many people who are waiting, and then they have to come the next day. But because of the inaction in this Chamber, most Nevadans who are hurting don't have that reassurance that there will be immediate, swift relief for them because they don't know when Federal help will come. Lifeline organizations like Three Square, which are working tirelessly to help families fill the gaps, are running out of resources.

It has been 223 days since the Senate last approved funds to help all Americans endure this once-in-a-lifetime catastrophe. Meanwhile, too many people in Nevada are languishing in the dark, hoping for economic assistance that still hasn't arrived.

In Nevada, we continue to have the second highest unemployment rate in the country at 12 percent. That is almost twice the national rate. Unemployment is so high in Nevada because of the coronavirus pandemic. It has stopped conventions, entertainment, hospitality, and travel operations in the Silver State and across the country. In August, in Nevada, employment in travel and tourism was down 25 percent over last year. Nationwide, spending on travel has declined by 42 percent compared to 2019. As a result, there are 60 percent fewer travelers to McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas and 50 percent fewer travelers to Las Vegas itself. The American Hotel and Lodging Association estimates that without more funding, nearly 70 percent of hotels may close by the end of this year.

Because of the devastation to what had been a thriving hospitality industry in Nevada, many of the jobs aren't there right now, and too many workers in Nevada can't pay their bills. More than 175,000 people in the Silver State continue to claim unemployment in-

surance. People without jobs are struggling right now to pay rent or mortgages or healthcare.

Let me tell you, housing assistance from the CARES Act helped tens of thousands of Nevadans and millions of Americans keep a roof over their heads. That was legislation we passed immediately in a bipartisan way—one of four. But those funds have run out. They are gone, and they need to be replaced. When the limited CDC eviction moratorium expires on January 1, Nevada is bracing for 250,000 to 400,000 possible evictions. That is more than 20 times the national number of evictions in 2019.

Families and seniors can't get enough to eat. In August and September, 234,000 Nevadans said their households were experiencing food insecurity. That is 11 percent of Nevada households going hungry—the second largest share in the country. One hundred and twenty-nine thousand said that the children in their homes didn't have enough food.

The longer we delay passing additional economic relief, the more jeopardy we create for our entire economy, nationwide. Don't take my word for it; just listen to Chairman Powell of the Federal Reserve, who has been saying this over and over again—most recently in a hearing in the Banking Committee, which I am a member of.

The Senate must do more to help people not just in my home State but across the country, especially now, as case counts are climbing. We are only months away from being able to give the population at large immunity to this deadly virus. We have to do everything we can to help people get to that time, to ensure that for the coming months, Nevadans can stay in their homes, they can take care of their kids, they can keep their businesses running, knowing that they will have an opportunity to open them in the future, and they can protect themselves from this virus. The only way to do that is to get them the relief they need now.

That relief simply has to include more money for State, local, and Tribal governments, which have had to cut back on critical services in the middle of a pandemic.

It should include extended unemployment benefits and pandemic unemployment assistance, as well as more loans for our small businesses and for PPP.

It must have housing assistance to prevent a wave of homelessness and illness.

It should do more to protect workers, fund education, and stave off hunger for families.

It also needs to include billions that States have asked for to help with vaccine distribution. We are going to be rolling out millions of doses of vaccines, all of which will need to be stored, handled, and tracked across 50 States. Healthcare workers not just in Nevada but across the country will

need training to administer the vaccine, and the public needs education about vaccine safety and access.

We have witnessed an amazing feat of human ingenuity in developing a vaccine faster than we have ever done it before, but the Federal Government and this Chamber still haven't set money aside to make sure that vaccines get to those who need it.

It also has to include money for testing and tracing so that we can contain spread of this virus and get more people back to work.

Nobody should be standing in the way of a comprehensive, bipartisan relief package to help Americans hold out until they can get the vaccines we know are coming. They need relief now. That is why I support the bipartisan proposal that our colleagues in the Senate put together just recently.

That proposal, which they look at in a comprehensive way for all of our States, includes money for State, local, and Tribal governments. It includes additional unemployment insurance. It supports funding for small businesses, including the Paycheck Protection Program, EIDL disaster loans, restaurants, stages, and deductibility. What I mean by stages are the live events in the hospitality industry that have been so devastated and have not received any relief during the time we have appropriated funds to address the pandemic. It includes CDFI, community lender support. It includes transportation—our airlines, our airports, our buses, our transit, Amtrak—and our workers there. It includes vaccine development and distribution and testing and tracing. It includes money for healthcare provider relief. It includes money for education, for student loans, and, yes, housing assistance and rental assistance that is needed now. It also includes money for nutrition, for the food insecurity that I just talked about that I witnessed that morning in Las Vegas and that we hear about constantly, not just in Nevada but across this country. It includes money for childcare, for broadband, for the U.S. Postal Service—so many things.

It was well reasoned and compromised and thought out, and it was our colleagues coming together—Republicans and Democrats coming together—for the best interests of this country.

I will tell you, we do not need unanimous support for this proposal. What we need is a vote on the floor of the Senate. That is why I am asking MITCH MCCONNELL to allow this proposal to come to the floor of the Senate for a vote. If some of my colleagues don't want to support any more relief, then they don't have to vote for it. But I would guarantee and I would suspect that there are more than enough of my colleagues on both sides of aisle who want to pass relief for the many Americans across this country in our States who are suffering right now, but they have to be given the opportunity.

I get that right now, there is only one person who gets to decide what

goes on the floor of the Senate. I don't agree with that, but that is the way the rules are set. MITCH MCCONNELL decides every single day what legislation comes to the floor of the Senate, what can be debated, what amendments can come. I have watched this for years as MITCH MCCONNELL, instead of including the Democrats in bipartisan negotiation on some of these important bills, puts them together behind closed doors, with only Republicans and maybe the current administration, and then puts them on the floor of the Senate for the first time; bypasses our committee hearings, where there is bipartisan support, usually, for bills; bypasses that and puts it on the floor of the Senate without any compromise, without any of the Democrats' involvement, and expects us to vote for it, and then holds the Democrats accountable—accountable—because we didn't have the opportunity to fight for our States and put important funding in there for State and local government, for broadband, for our healthcare workers, for our hospitality industry—you name it. That is not the way the Senate should be operating. You know that, and I know that.

We have to get back to a time when we compromise, when we all come representing our States. We all have equal votes. There are two of us from each State. We are fighting for our constituents and our States, and we should be able to have that debate, that conversation, on the floor of the Senate in a fair manner. That is why I ask MITCH MCCONNELL to allow a vote on this proposal.

I had the opportunity to watch one of my colleagues talk about this. I absolutely agree with him, Senator ANGUS KING. He said: I sit in these committees, in these bipartisan committees, and I vote for relief for disasters, hurricane disasters, fire disasters—fires in the Western States where I come from and where you know so well that the fires are devastating our Western States. But for the hurricanes that happen in Texas, Florida—you name it—I vote for relief because I know those constituents in those States are suffering. I don't look at them as blue States or red States. I look at them as Americans who are in need right now, and I am going to support that relief.

Why are we doing that with this coronavirus relief package? I do not understand. It is not what the American people expect of us. It is not what they want, and it is not what they deserve. I cannot stress this enough: It is time for the Senate to get back to work on behalf of the American public. That means that we are willing to compromise. That means we are willing to do what is right and what is needed in our communities because I can guarantee you, any one of us who goes home to our State—we are all suffering; we all see it. That is what the American people expect of us.

I hope MITCH MCCONNELL allows a vote on the floor for this bipartisan

compromise that the Senators have worked on.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank my colleague and friend, the senior Senator from the great State of Nevada, for her words. They are on point. I hope the Republican leader was listening. I hope our Republican colleagues were listening because her genuine concern for her State, which is suffering just like mine is—both States depend on entertainment and tourism. It is real. We all want to get something done, and we are all willing to give to get something done, but the Republican leader holds the key, and we hope he is open to compromise. I will have more to say on that in a minute, but I thank her for her comments.

We all know how desperate things are. Yesterday, we were leveled by some of the grimmest statistics of the pandemic. More than 100,000 Americans were hospitalized; more than 2,700 Americans died, the highest recorded number in a single day since the pandemic began; more than 274,000 Americans have died in total. That is the equivalent of a 9/11 attack every day for 92 days in a row.

Unlike the spring, when the rates of infections and fatalities peaked before steadily declining, the winter months and the hangover from Thanksgiving travel will likely cause these rates to get worse before they get better.

The steady yet staggering loss of American life is horrific. And because so many of us are isolated, because so many have contracted the disease and have experienced relatively mild symptoms and recovered quickly—thank God—there is a sense that things are not as bad as they seem. But the raw accounting is unavoidable, and it is harrowing. The loss of our friends, our parents, our neighbors, our siblings, our colleagues must be acknowledged and mourned and must inspire us to redouble our efforts to defeat this evil disease.

As COVID-19 races through much of the country, the economic fallout of the pandemic also broadens. Many family budgets and small businesses are at their breaking point.

Economists are now warning that the U.S. economy could fall into double-dip recession without additional relief from Congress. Let me say that again. We could have a double-dip recession unless there is relief—good, strong relief from Congress. That is why Democrats have been so desperately trying to convince our Republican colleagues and the Republican leader, in particular, to work with us in a bipartisan fashion on another round of emergency Federal relief.

Speaker PELOSI and I made a new offer to Leader MCCONNELL and Leader

MCCARTHY on Monday in hopes of jump-starting serious negotiations. Leader MCCONNELL responded by circulating another version of a partisan, Republican-only draft.

In the spirit of compromise, Speaker PELOSI and I believe the bipartisan framework introduced by a group of eight Senators on Tuesday should be used as the basis, the framework, for immediate bipartisan, bicameral negotiations. Of course, we and others will offer improvements, but the need to act is urgent, and we believe that with good-faith negotiations, we could very well come to an agreement.

We are already much closer to an agreement because of the bipartisan talks these eight Senators have created, and we can build off their momentum.

What is the alternative—another round of legislative failure, a failure to help the American people? The Republican leader came to the floor this morning to say “compromise is within reach”—his words—before reiterating a long list of Republican demands and blaming the Democrats for everything. Once again, the Republican leader argued that the Senate should pass only what Republicans approve of and leave the rest for later, and he now says that an emergency relief bill should be limited by only what President Trump will sign.

Of course, we could say, similarly, that the bill should be limited only by what a Democratic House will pass.

Neither is true compromise. The leader knows that. But for some reason, in the midst of this generational crisis, Republican Leader MCCONNELL does not seem inclined to compromise to actually get something done. But what he wants to do is posture, to put partisan bills on the floor and say: Take it or leave it.

The real answer here is to sit down and talk. Let's use the bipartisan framework developed by eight Senators from both sides as our starting point.

We have precious little time left before the end of the year. The country has some desperate needs. Unemployment remains too high. Laid-off workers need our assistance until the economy fully recovers. Small businesses need another round of support.

With the imminent availability of a vaccine, it is crucial that there be additional funding for manufacturing and distribution. The distribution efforts will be led by the States, which further increases the need to deliver assistance to State and local governments.

As we all take great hope and solace in the idea that a vaccine is just around the corner, we must make necessary preparations to ensure that we have enough doses; that it is distributed effectively, efficiently and fairly; and that Americans can access it affordably.

We can make a significant downpayment, right now, toward preparing the country for a vaccine with an emergency relief bill before the Christmas holiday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS LAMAR ALEXANDER, MIKE ENZI, PAT ROBERTS, AND CORY GARDNER

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to pay tribute to friends and colleagues who will be leaving the Senate at the start of the new Congress.

I consider LAMAR ALEXANDER, who spoke yesterday, to be a friend and a mentor. He is an institution around here. He is what I would consider an old-school Senator in the best way. He not only takes the time to learn the issues, but he also understands how to explain the importance of the policies that we work on up here to the people back home. By embodying the principles of collegiality and bipartisanship, he has accomplished a lot for the people of Tennessee and all Americans.

In the Senate, you need 59 other Senators to say “That is a good idea” to get anything accomplished. It is critical, then, to get to know your colleagues, learn about how to work with them constructively to get things done. LAMAR ALEXANDER is masterful at that.

We have accomplished a lot under his leadership on a lot of important issues. In the interest of time, I will mention two recent examples where I worked with LAMAR and watched him make a difference in the lives of all Americans.

First, his 21st Century Cures Act, which passed back in 2016, provided needed authorization for investments in the National Institutes of Health and other research institutions to help create new breakthroughs in treatments and cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases, as well as advancements in developing medical treatments tailored to each person's individual genome. It was groundbreaking work.

It probably got less notice, but it also authorized an unprecedented amount of funding in the State opioid response grants to combat opioid epidemics that have hit almost all of our States. Certainly, it has hit Ohio and Tennessee hard. This has served as an absolutely exceptional complement to what is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which we passed earlier that year. Without the 21st Century Cures Act, we would not have made the progress we have achieved in the past few years in turning the tide of this deadly disease, and I have seen it firsthand in my State and around the country.

We also could not have accomplished the landmark Restore Our Parks Act without his help. This bill, now law, will help to rebuild our national park infrastructure by helping to address that backlog of \$12 billion now in maintenance projects. Over 100,000 jobs will be created in the next 5 years due to this legislation.

LAMAR didn't care about getting the credit for this historic bill, by the way—probably the most important bill

for conserving lands in 50 years. He just wanted to get it done. I saw that as he worked tirelessly in public and behind the scenes to ensure we got it across the finish line.

Jane and I have cherished our time together with you and Honey, LAMAR, and we hope that will continue.

Here in the Senate, we will miss your experience, your wisdom, your spirit of bipartisanship, and your perseverance and determination to advance our country's priorities and get things done.

Another colleague who has focused on results is Senator MIKE ENZI, a true son of Wyoming, who has represented his home State with class in this Chamber for nearly a quarter of a century. MIKE is someone I have gotten to know and respect over the past decade as we have served together here in the Senate.

In his time here on the Hill, MIKE has accomplished a lot for Wyoming. As chair of the HELP Committee, he helped lead the way on crucial pension reforms—complicated stuff but really important. He promoted greater access to education and affordable healthcare and pushed for improvements to workplace safety. He was always willing to reach across the aisle.

Over the past three Congresses, he has embraced his past life as an accountant and used his position as chair of the Senate Budget Committee to push for smarter spending here in Washington. That is a perspective we will really miss in this time of exploding deficits.

I have to say, I am a bit envious of MIKE's post-Senate career plans. As he tells me, he is going back to Wyoming to spend time with Diana and his wonderful family and to spend more time on the rivers of Wyoming with his fly rod.

MIKE, I hope sometime soon I will be able to come out to Gillette to join you and Diana so you can show me your favorite fishing spots. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

We are saying goodbye to another giant of the Senate this year when Senator PAT ROBERTS leaves us. I saw Senator ROBERTS on the floor here a moment ago. I see him now.

I view PAT ROBERTS as the Matt Dillon of the United States Senate. Matt Dillon, for those of you who know who he was, was a resident of Dodge City, just like PAT, and like Marshal Dillon and the marine he is proud to be, PAT knows how to lay down the law. But he does it with humor and smiles and a wink, and he does it in a way with that dry Kansas sense of humor that is very effective. By the way, he is always looking for Miss Kitty.

He has used that combination of toughness and hard work and humor to accomplish a lot here in Congress. PAT's focus has always been on the people of Kansas. He has done a lot for the people of Kansas, but his work went far beyond Kansas.

It turns out he is the only person in America to have chaired the Agriculture Committee both in the House

and in the Senate. His tireless work to pass farm bills over those years to help growers and ranchers has made him a friend to farmers everywhere, even in Ohio.

Just as important was his work as chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Some may not recall this, but he is the one who spearheaded the reforms to our intelligence services after 9/11 to avoid another such tragedy.

PAT, I hope you and Franki get a well-deserved retirement, and I look forward to continuing to stay in touch.

We are also going to be losing a relatively young and energetic Member of our caucus here, who is also an accomplished bipartisan legislator, when CORY GARDNER leaves next year. With only a few short years in the Senate here, CORY has proven he knows how to get things done, using his background in the House and his friendships to be effective for Colorado and the country. He is a smart guy, and we have worked together on a lot of critical issues to address some of the biggest issues facing our country.

Like almost all Coloradans, he loves the outdoors. His work for conservation in the outdoors is something that I have had an opportunity to work with him on, including the historic Great American Outdoors Act, which was signed into law recently by the President. It includes the Restore Our Parks Act, but also a passion of his was the permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has been a long-sought goal of the conservation and environmental community. Frankly, it could not have been done without CORY's involvement—period.

CORY, we are going to miss your sunny disposition.

He may be the most optimistic Member of the U.S. Senate. He always has a smile on his face. Even when things seem bad, he manages a way for them to look good.

I will miss working with you on some of these important projects. I wish you the very best as you start the next stage of your career.

We are also sad to see MARTHA MCSALLY go. I have appreciated getting to know her over the past couple of years. In a short period of time, she was a passionate advocate for Arizona as a member of the Armed Services Committee. She used her own trail-blazing path as the first female fighter pilot to have flown in combat to advocate for our men and women in uniform. We worked together on bipartisan legislation, as an example, to end cosmetics animal testing. She was involved in a lot of different issues.

We want to thank you for all you have done in the Chamber, and I look forward to staying in touch.

Senator TOM UDALL has joined us here in the Chamber. I call Senator UDALL "Cousin" because of his cousin Mark Udall and our friendship. TOM UDALL has now served for 12 years in the U.S. Senate for the people of New

Mexico. I have gotten to know him over that time through our work together on a number of different legislative projects. Most have been around conservation and the environment. We have had a lot of success in that regard.

We have been cochairs together of what is called the International Conservation Caucus. There is legislation called the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, which we have been able to work together on to get reauthorized. This has been incredibly important legislation. Probably the No. 3 or 4 source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the world is the burning forest, and this has managed to save many millions of acres from the burning by simply saying to these countries: We will do a debt-for-nature swap with you. If you owe a debt to the United States—which, by the way, many are unlikely to ever pay anyway—we will let you use that in exchange for protecting your forest.

It has been remarkably successful. At a time when we seem to have a lot of partisanship and fights around here about global warming and climate change, this is one area in which we have been able to find common ground, and that is because TOM has been willing to step up and be a great partner in that.

He has also helped me pass legislation that requires that the U.S. Postal Service use its inventory of the Save Vanishing Species stamps to help protect the rich wildlife and natural resources that we have and protect endangered species. This has resulted in \$5 million to \$6 million a year going toward that effort. Unfortunately, we have had to convince the Postal Service to continue allowing that great source of funding to be there for our vanishing species. Again, TOM has been very helpful in that.

Even in these past months, we haven't stopped our work on environmental issues. Earlier this year, we introduced the bipartisan REPLANT Act to help the U.S. Forest Service address the growing reforestation backlog across our country. This is supported by the Trump administration. It is also supported by TOM UDALL. Therefore, we are hoping it can get done.

He leaves the Senate with a legacy of tirelessly working to protect the natural beauty of his State and our country for future generations, and we wish him well in the future as he and Jill continue to work on those issues together.

Finally, our colleague DOUG JONES is going to be departing after serving the people of Alabama for the past couple of years. I have gotten to know DOUG through our bipartisan efforts that have focused on standing up to unfair trade practices. Our Trade Security Act to reform section 232, I think, is the right approach to be sure we hold those accountable who violate our trade laws but to also do it in a way that protects American jobs and strengthens our U.S. economy. I will

miss DOUG as a bipartisan partner in that effort, and I appreciate his working with us on those trade issues and other things.

The Senate is a body that is really driven by personal relationships between 100 Members. Senators ALEXANDER, ENZI, ROBERTS, GARDNER, MCSALLY, UDALL, and JONES have been key and valuable Members of that 100-person group, and we are going to miss them. They have all served this body well as legislators and as people. They are of high character. They are the kind of folks with whom you want to work, and they have been effective because of that. They will be missed, and I wish them all well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

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

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

#### VOTE ON WALLER NOMINATION

Under the previous order, all postclosure time has expired.

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

#### YEAS—48

Alexander	Enzi	Portman
Barrasso	Ernst	Risch
Blackburn	Fischer	Roberts
Blunt	Gardner	Romney
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoehn	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

## NAYS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Paul	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

## NOT VOTING—5

Graham	Loeffler	Sanders
Harris	Perdue	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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

## CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Liam P. Hardy, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

Mitch McConnell, Shelley Moore Capito, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Todd Young, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Michael B. Enzi, Lindsey Graham, Tim Scott, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, James Lankford.

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 Liam P. Hardy, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LEOFFLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Ex.]

## YEAS—61

Alexander	Gardner	Reed
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Jones	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kelly	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Collins	King	Sinema
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Tester
Cramer	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Toomey
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Murphy	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Portman	

## NAYS—34

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schatz
Bennet	Heinrich	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Booker	Kaine	Stabenow
Brown	Klobuchar	Udall
Cantwell	Leahy	Van Hollen
Casey	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warren
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murray	Wyden
Durbin	Peters	
Feinstein	Rosen	

## NOT VOTING—5

Graham	Loeffler	Sanders
Harris	Perdue	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 61, the nays are 34.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Liam P. Hardy, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Maryland.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4810

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to discuss a question of fundamental fairness to members of our Armed Forces and to Federal employees.

I think we all may recall a few months ago when President Trump ordered the Department of the Treasury to establish a system to push businesses, companies, and employers around the country to defer the collection of employees' payroll taxes. Those are the taxes that go to Social Security and Medicare. The key word here is "defer" because this is really a shell game.

Any moneys that businesses do not pay into Social Security and Medicare now are going to have to be paid by those Federal employees right after the holidays, starting in January.

And many employees around the country were at first confused. They

thought they were getting a payroll tax holiday, but that is not the case.

The reality is, whatever they didn't pay in the form of payroll taxes now and in the past couple months they would be required to pay back right after those holidays.

And when businesses looked at this and when workers and employees around the country looked at this, they overwhelmingly rejected it. They said they didn't want to participate.

Here is what UPS said about this proposal: "We recognize that for some, it may have been helpful to have more money in their paychecks in 2020, yet not all employees have professional tax planning needed to prepare effectively for the added obligation they would face in 2021."

So even though this payroll tax deferral proposal got a burst of attention, it turned out to be meaningless for most workers around the country. Most private sector employers didn't participate, and their employees and workers didn't want them to participate.

Unfortunately, the one big exception to this has been members of our Armed Forces, the folks who every day stand guard to protect our country, and Federal employees who do the Nation's business with respect to important services they provide.

And as the private sector has rejected this, we have heard from thousands of Federal employees who say: We don't want to participate either. We have heard from members of the Armed Forces that say: We don't want to be used as guinea pigs and be required to participate.

So I want to be really clear that if we don't correct this, the damage will continue to be done, and these members of our Armed Forces and Federal employees will be forced to pay even more back after the holidays.

Now, I wrote to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and to OMB Director Vought about this back in September, September 8, just as the deferral was starting, and we were joined in that letter by 22 Senators—Senators from both sides of the aisle. We had a simple bipartisan request. It was: Make this payroll tax deferral optional, make it voluntary. If Federal employees and members of our Armed Forces want to participate in this proposal, fine. Let them do it, but don't force, don't require, don't coerce members of our military and Federal employees to participate.

And we didn't get a response to that letter to Secretary Mnuchin and CBO Director Vought. So I asked Secretary Mnuchin about this issue at a Senate Banking Committee hearing on September 24. I said: Mr. Secretary, why shouldn't we make this voluntary? Why should you require members of our Armed Forces and Federal employees to participate in the program if they don't want to? And his response was: Yeah, it would be "reasonable" for



the payroll tax to be voluntary “if people don’t want to participate. Sounds like common sense.”

Well, we expected some followup from the Secretary of Treasury. Nothing. So we sent a followup letter—again, a bipartisan letter. Nothing.

So now it is December, and the Trump administration is still forcing members of our Armed Forces and Federal employees who don’t want to participate in this now-forced deferral program—they want to continue to force them to do it. So we introduced a bipartisan piece of legislation called the Protecting Employees from Surprise Taxes Act. It is pretty straightforward. It says: If a Federal employee or member of the armed services wants to participate, let them participate. If they want to opt out, let them opt out of it.

I want to stress that the Federal workers we have heard from and the organizations and unions that represent Federal workers strongly support this measure. And why not? It is hard to argue that we shouldn’t let the folks who are standing guard to protect us make a choice about whether they want to participate in this program.

Also, just to remind our colleagues—maybe they haven’t kept track of this—the Senate chose not to participate. The Senate chose not to participate in this program, whether on a mandatory or a voluntary basis. The House of Representatives chose not to participate in this program.

So it is going to be interesting to hear the Senators say that they want to require members of our Armed Forces and Federal employees to enroll in a program that this Senate decided was not good for members of the Senate staff and the House of Representatives decided was not good for House staff.

Yet, if we don’t support this proposal, this is simply passing the bipartisan legislation I mentioned to give our members of the Armed Forces and Federal employees that choice. If we don’t pass this, we are going to require them to continue to participate in a program they don’t like.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 4810 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am here to express support for this payroll tax holiday, and I think Congress should do much better than that, and that is to come together and forgive these taxes, period.

In fact, back in March, I pushed for Congress to include a payroll tax cut in the CARES Act, and I still support that

today because the payroll tax cut is about supporting workers who might have had their hours reduced.

These are workers who are living paycheck to paycheck, workers across our country who are struggling to make ends meet because of the impact of COVID-19 on our economy.

Allowing folks to keep more of their hard-earned money could make a big difference. It would provide immediate support—immediate support—for Montana’s families who are struggling to get by. And, importantly, we ensure that this will have no impact—zero impact—on Social Security because we transfer money from the general fund to the Treasury.

This is not a new concept. It has been done by Congress. In fact, it was done under the Obama administration. As an example, a Montanan who earns an annual salary of about \$40,000 typically pays about \$2,500 in payroll taxes every year. Forgiving the taxes deferred during this 4-month payroll tax deferral would save that Montanan about \$827.

What we should be doing is working together to pass a COVID relief package that delivers much needed aid for families who have had a tough go the last several months. And it is going to get tougher going forward, not only for these families but workers and small businesses.

Instead, my colleagues across the aisle have continued to block very targeted relief, several times, right here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, which is holding Montanans and the American people hostage. We should come together and agree on this targeted relief. We can continue to disagree on these other items, but let’s get this targeted relief package passed.

So instead of coming to the floor today to try to pass a bill that undermines a payroll tax holiday to save folks more of their hard-earned money, I urge my colleague here before us to work with Members of his caucus and get the COVID-19 relief passed.

Once again, we should be forgiving these taxes as a payroll tax holiday, not unlike what happened during the Obama administration, and for these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator for Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, just to respond to the Senator from Montana, I think he well knows that it has been over 6 months since the House of Representatives passed the first Heroes Act with comprehensive COVID-19 relief. They have also passed an updated “Heroes 2 Act,” but we never even had a vote here in the U.S. Senate on that provision. We have been blocked from having that vote by the Republican leader.

I don’t know where my colleague stands on the bipartisan framework that was just released. That is something that I can support and pursue, but listening to the Senate majority leader, he has been pouring cold water

on it. And, by the way, the measure that the Senator from Montana mentioned that we should pass right now for coronavirus relief, that doesn’t have a payroll tax holiday. It doesn’t do what the Senator just said he wants to do. It doesn’t say anything about that.

So if the Senator or others want to introduce legislation to have a payroll tax holiday for those who have been enrolled in this program for the last 4 months, go ahead. But why would you allow another day to pass requiring members of our Armed Forces who don’t want to participate to participate to participate or requiring Federal employees who are out there providing public services to participate? That is all this does. This doesn’t preclude anything the Senator talked about doing. All it does is to say: Right now, for those people who are calling who don’t want to be enrolled in this program, let them out. Let them out.

And what the Senator from Montana is saying is: No, I want to continue to hold them hostage to pass a proposal that isn’t even in the majority leader’s own bill.

And that is what people get sick and tired about around this country.

So let’s just pass this. This is a simple, straightforward bill. I welcome debate on the bipartisan proposal that has been put forward by a number of Republican Senators and a number of Democratic Senators, but don’t try and mix this up into that larger debate. This is very simple. It just says to a member of the Army, the Navy or any of the services who doesn’t want to be forced to participate in this right now that they don’t have to. That is what this says, and by opposing this, you are saying that you want to prolong the requirement that they participate in a program that they don’t want to be a part of.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator from Maryland raising these points. In regard to the proposal of the bill that was passed by NANCY PELOSI, the Speaker of House, the reason we didn’t take a vote on that bill in the U.S. Senate is because it was full, basically, of her wish list of many items that didn’t really relate to COVID-19 relief. We did put a targeted bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate in the amount of \$600 billion that, frankly, addressed many of the issues that the House had in their bill, and we had many issues that we agreed on here in the Senate that would be at least targeted. This is about the Paycheck Protection Program. This is relief for schools. This is resources for the vaccine, for additional PPE, for additional testing. It is a long list, including relief for the U.S. Postal Service. Of course, I would hope that you would support it, but we were blocked from even bringing that bill to the floor of the U.S. Senate. We couldn’t get to debate on that bill in September when it came before the U.S. Senate.



I appreciate these points. Obviously, we have a disagreement. President Trump pushed for Congress to pass a payroll tax cut. I would rather see a cut, not a deferral. That is the way to really help workers across this country. When Congress failed to act in July, the President enacted that deferral as a way to provide immediate relief to the American people. I would ask that we come together and let's forgive those taxes. Forgive them, and they won't be getting a surprise tax increase if we do that.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, just very briefly in response, I think everyone knows what is going on here. This is a very simple proposal. If you want to participate in President Trump's deferral, you can continue to participate in the deferral program. But if you are in the Armed Forces or are a Federal employee and you are being required to do that right now and you don't want to, we should let them opt out. That is all this is about, and I am really surprised that our Republican colleagues would block members of our Armed Forces and Federal employees from making a simple choice which they believe is in their best interest.

So I am disappointed with the objection and will continue to pursue this.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back the time in order for the vote to occur now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON HARDY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hardy nomination?

Mr. DAINES. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

#### YEAS—59

Alexander	Blunt	Capito
Barrasso	Boozman	Cardin
Blackburn	Braun	Carper

Cassidy	Hyde-Smith
Collins	Johnson
Cornyn	Jones
Cotton	Kelly
Cramer	Kennedy
Crapo	King
Cruz	Lankford
Daines	Lee
Enzi	Manchin
Ernst	McConnell
Fischer	Moran
Gardner	Murkowski
Graham	Murphy
Grassley	Paul
Hassan	Reed
Hawley	Risch
Hoeven	Roberts

#### NAYS—34

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schatz
Bennet	Heinrich	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Booker	Kaine	Stabenow
Brown	Klobuchar	Udall
Cantwell	Leahy	Van Hollen
Casey	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warren
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murray	Wyden
Durbin	Peters	
Feinstein	Rosen	

#### NOT VOTING—7

Burr	Loeffler	Sanders
Harris	Perdue	
Inhofe	Portman	

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 Tennessee.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam 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.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak for as long as I may require.

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE STAFF OF SENATOR ALEXANDER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, here is my view of serving in the U.S. Senate: It is hard to get here, it is hard to stay here, and while you are here, you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country. Accomplishing something good in the U.S. Senate means working with a superior staff.

Today, I want to pay tribute to the 270 men and women who have served on my staff since I came to the Senate in 2003, in my personal office, both here in Washington, DC, and in the six Tennessee offices; in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; the Senate Rules Committee;

the Senate Appropriations Committee; and at the Senate Republican conference.

Some who started with me in 2003 are still working for me after 18 years, and some have moved on to other opportunities, but each has played a major role in the Senate, whether they were helping to pass laws, serve our constituents, or answering the front-office phone.

We have some important traditions here in the Senate, including the maiden speech, which I delivered 17 years ago, in my case, and the farewell speech, which I delivered yesterday, but for me, something is missing. Usually staff is acknowledged in the farewell address, which either makes the address way too long or at least too little time to properly acknowledge their contributions. I am here today to make a "Salute to the Staff" speech. I know my colleagues agree that their own accomplishments are the result of working with superior staff, so perhaps, if I may not be presumptuous, a "Salute to the Staff" speech might become an additional Senate tradition.

When I say "superior staff," here is what I mean: superior in being what Senator Howard Baker used to call an eloquent listener—that the constituent on the phone might be right or even the staffer in the other office might be right; superior in courtesy to the Tennesseans for whom we work; superior in insight; superior in resolving complex issues and wrapping up the result in a nice package with a ribbon tied around it, ready to be passed and signed into law whenever the moment came that it could be passed, which would usually be a surprise and at an inconvenient time; and superior in writing and speaking plain English in order to persuade at least half the people we are right; and superior in working well together—something you are supposed to learn in kindergarten—so we have a good time while we are working.

Unlike almost every other Senate office, at the suggestion of my chief of staff, David Cleary, we created a single team composed of personal office staff here and in Washington, DC, and the committee staff, with David in charge of all of that. I originally thought that was a big mistake. I didn't see how anyone could be in charge of all of that, but I was wrong about it because what it did was break down barriers and eliminate jealousy, improve communication, and create a much happier and effective working condition.

The results have been exceptional. For 18 years, I have gotten up every morning thinking I might be able to do something good to help our country, and I have gone to bed most nights thinking that I have. That couldn't have happened without the privilege of working with an exceptional staff.

The truth is—we all know this—that there is just no physical way for any U.S. Senator to see every single one of our constituents every time we want to

see them or talk to them on the phone, although we all make our best efforts to do that. And you learn pretty quickly that constituents expect and deserve to be treated not just with courtesy but promptly. For example, Senator Estes Kefauver held this seat that I now hold when I was a high school student.

One day, Maude from Madisonville, his hometown, called Senator Kefauver's office and said: "I want to speak to Estes."

The staffer said: "I'm sorry but Senator Kefauver is tied up on the floor."

There was a long silence. Maude said: "Well, you go down and untie the son of a gun and get him up off the floor and tell him Maude's on the phone and wants to speak to him."

So our constituents expect to talk with us when they want to.

My first visit to the Senate was when I was a junior in high school. It was part of the American Legion Boys Nation Program. I was invited to visit Senator Kefauver. I was 17 years old. I was reluctant to do that because I was sure he had many more important people to see than a 17-year-old boy from Maryville, TN. I was even more sure of that when I arrived at his office because his office was just filled with people who looked important and looked like they had come from all over the world to see him. But his assistant came out and swished me in through all the important people, doing her best to make me feel comfortable. Kefauver had a reputation for being accessible, and it was because his staff made it appear that he always was.

I remind my staff that there are many people who want to see us who suspect that we feel we are too important to see them, and we should do everything we can to help them understand that we know that they are the important ones.

The staff and I have done our best to try to do that. With all of the Senators with whom I have served from Tennessee, we have what we call Tennessee Tuesday, which are breakfasts where any Tennessean can come and visit with both Senators, have a little breakfast, and have their photograph taken.

In 18 years, 270 people have worked on my Senate staff—as I mentioned, in Jackson, Nashville, Tri-Cities, Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga, or in Washington, DC, on my personal staff or the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions staff or the Rules Committee or Appropriations Committee or at the Senate Republican conference. There are a lot of places to have a lot of staff—153 women, 117 men.

Our staff has also benefited from the work of 433 interns. These interns usually stay with us 1 to 3 months, and they have some real work experiences while they are here, and they are pretty good. In fact, 30 staff members—that is 11 percent of our staff—began their work in our office as interns.

Our staff has experienced some great personal joys. We celebrated the birth or adoption of 30 babies over those 18 years. Just as I met my wife Honey while we were both working in the Senate, some of our staffers met their spouses while working on my staff, including: Mackensie Burt and Paul McKernana, Will Patterson and Katherine Knight, Virginia Heppner and Bobby McMillin, Laura Lefler and John Herzog, Will Campbell and Victoria Souza, and Patrick Jaynes and Jill Salyers. They are all married now.

We also have experienced some profound sorrows. Some have lost parents, nursed seriously injured children, or been through their own health emergencies.

In November 2007, Trey Lefler, a very special staffer and friend, was involved in a serious car accident and died as a result of his injuries.

Many staff members have stayed. We have worked together for a long time. Some have been a part of our team—meaning we worked together—since I became a Senator: Patrick Jaynes, State director; Lindsey Seidman, deputy staff director on the HELP Committee; Jane Chedester, field representative in Knoxville; Kay Durham, constituent services representative in Nashville; Charlotte Jackson, who knows more about how to help people with a visa problem than anybody in the world; Matt Varino, field representative in Jackson; Gina Parkerson in Tri-Cities; Stephanie Chivers, a senior adviser in Nashville.

It is pretty remarkable. It is not so easy to be on the staff of a U.S. Senator in the State they represent. Everybody knows who you are. Everywhere you go, you are likely to be sought out by people who need help, people who are hurting. It is easy to get burned out. It is hard to stay in a job like that for that long.

Patrick Jaynes says that while these might be jobs in politics, the politics end when you start the job. You have to work with everyone and help everyone.

Our Tennessee field representatives have traveled thousands of miles, meeting with mayors, businesses, schools, hospitals, and other organizations across our 95 counties.

Caseworkers have handled about 20,000 cases over the years, like getting disability benefits, helping a World War II veteran get a medal, helping a family stranded overseas get home.

For example, Laura Ray Goodrich is a staffer in Jackson. She heard of a single mother having desperate issues getting her tax refund. The mother needed the money to help pay rent and the rest of her bills. Laura got to work and reached out to the IRS. She discovered the mother's returns had been wrong for several years and helped the thrilled single mother recover far more money than she was expecting.

Keith Abraham, who works in the Knoxville office, heard from a Tennessee company about an employee

with a grim cancer diagnosis. The employee's parents lived in China. They were unable to see the employee because of COVID-19 restrictions. Long and short, Keith worked it out so they could receive the appropriate paperwork and fly here to be with their daughter.

One story that I got to see in person was about Wilbur "Bill" Hoffman from World War II. Mary Wooldridge, in our Memphis office, was asked if there was some way he could be recognized for his World War II service. She worked with the service and discovered that he was not only eligible for a Purple Heart after he had been wounded at Pointe du Hoc on D-Day in 1944, he had also earned the Bronze Star and the Ranger Tab awards. In 2012, he was presented with these awards by our State's highest ranking military officer, General Haston at a ceremony I attended. He died a year later.

Each fall, Kay Durham in our office works through about 150 Tennesseans' applications to attend our Nation's service academies. She has worked with over 2,500 candidates applying for those academies.

There is no better State director than Patrick Jaynes. He also served as deputy chief of staff. He worked to create a smooth relationship between what happens in Tennessee and what happens here. I have traveled thousands of miles with Patrick. He has not run into anybody, but we have been through a lot of flat tires and some speeding tickets. Patrick and I have seen it all. He is full of insights. He always has energy for the next event and can always solve a problem.

During my time in the Senate, the conference elected me three times as chairman of the Senate Republican conference. That is a little bit of a political job. What you are supposed to do is come up with something that Republicans can say to counter what Democrats are saying. It is especially a challenge to do that for Republicans to get them to talk on a single message.

All of the Senators—every one of us—are experts in politics or we wouldn't have gotten here. And Republican Senators are especially independent-minded. Republicans and Democrats will often all do things together as a caucus, but we do it differently than they do. Democrats will all hold hands and jump off the cliff together. Republicans will also all jump off the cliff at the same time, but one will do a somersault, one will do a back flip, one will do a dive, and so forth.

The goal was to come up in the caucus with a catchy phrase. For example, on energy, "Find more, use less," or about ObamaCare, "step by step," instead of "comprehensive."

To persuade Senators to say the same thing, staff would record clips of them saying what I thought they should say, and then we would show that back to them at lunch. I found that Senators paid a lot more attention to watching themselves say things

than they did to watching me suggest to them what to say.

It wasn't me doing all that; it was staff doing it. They came up with catchy phrases, many of them. They made sure we communicated them at the conference.

While I was on the Rules Committee, I had a chance—I worked with Senator SCHUMER on that. We were ranking—really, like this year, we didn't know who would be the new President. I had an opportunity to speak at President Obama's inauguration. We talked about the peaceful transfer or the reaffirmation of power as a conspicuous symbol of our democracy. There is no possible way to organize a Presidential inauguration without a superior staff. Mary Jones and Lindsey Seidman were the ones who were in charge of all that for us.

Then, in 2012, on the Senate HELP Committee—as the senior Republican for 2 years, then 6 years as chairman—the staff grew a lot. Senator Ted Kennedy used to say that the HELP Committee had about one-third of the jurisdiction of the Senate. It certainly does a lot of work, and it needs a lot of talented staff members. During my 8 years as the senior Republican, the staff helped organize 209 hearings, 752 witnesses, mostly bipartisan—meaning that I agreed with Senator Harkin first, then Senator MURRAY for the last 6 years, on whom the witnesses would be. We produced 90 bills that have become law.

That is a lot of work—weeks of work by the staff. Securing each witness often takes a host of conversations with Democratic committee staff, numerous phone calls with experts.

Every bill that becomes law takes efforts that are hard to comprehend outside the walls of Congress, from the consultations with constituents and experts to the drafting of the legislation, to the work with other members and outside groups, to consulting, to trying to soothe bruised feelings, to working with other committee members, bring it to the attention of the majority leader, try to find an opportunity for it to be on the Senate calendar, then bill support, then remove holes. There is a lot of work to do in passing a bill and making a law, and staff does most of the work. Senators do a lot, but they can't do it all.

Here are some of the achievements worth highlighting. I mentioned many of them yesterday in my farewell address, so I won't go into great detail about them today; for example, the Every Student Succeeds Act. This was the bill to fix No Child Left Behind. It affects 50 million children in 100,000 schools. President Obama called it “a Christmas miracle.” The Wall Street Journal said it was the largest devolution of power from Washington to the States in 25 years. I will never forget what, to me, was a truly emotional moment, when every Senator on our committee—this is from RAND PAUL to ELIZABETH WARREN—voted to rec-

ommend the bill to the Senate. This law was the result of complicated and nimble work by Peter Oppenheim, Lindsay Fryer, Matt Stern, and David Cleary.

FAFSA Simplification. Twenty million Americans fill out this ridiculously complex form for Federal aid for Pell grants and student loans. You have seen me hold it up on the Senate floor. Everyone agrees it can be 33 instead of 108 questions. Almost everyone agrees it is the major obstacle to low-income students getting Federal aid to go to college because they are intimidated by it. Bob Moran, Lauren Davies, and Andrew LaCasse have worked hard with Senator MURRAY's staff. We have it about half done. We would like to get it across the finish line before the end of the year.

Head Start. In 2007, we came up with the idea. Sarah Rittling was the staffer. It was to establish 200 centers of excellence for the Head Start Program.

Then, in 2005, Katrina came and Rita came, two big hurricanes. Kristin Bannerman was critical to legislation, where we worked with Senator Kennedy, Senator Dodd, and Senator Landrieu for voucher funding to assist with the cost of educating 150,000 public and nonpublic school students in grades K–12 displaced by the hurricane.

Then, reauthorizing the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Education Week said it was “a watershed moment.” Staffer Jake Baker worked on that. Senator ENZI did a lot of the heavy work.

I have been fortunate to have two extraordinary women whom I work with on the team of staff on the HELP Committee who handle family health policy: Mary-Sumpter Lapinski and Grace Graham.

Before they started, Melissa Pfaff, Page Kranbuhl, and Marguerite Salee Kondracke were instrumental in passing the PREEMIE Act in 2003, getting the bill well written and signed into law, working with the March of Dimes to help give more babies a chance to live long and healthy lives.

Once I became senior on the HELP Committee, we began to work on the 21st Century Cures Act. Senator MCCONNELL said it was the most important law of that Congress. It helps speed medical innovations to patients in doctors' offices. Margaret Coulter, Andy Vogt, Melissa Pfaff, Brett Meeks, and others spent countless hours getting ready for that.

FDA user fees. This showed Grace Graham's ability to be a traffic cop working with Senator MURRAY's staff and with House committees. We had a really fairly seamless effort to take these complicated pieces of law to collect user fees from drug and device makers and include significant new provisions to speed those drugs and devices into doctors' offices.

The most popular bill that never became a law was called Alexander-Murray. I even bought a case of Scotch called Alexander-Murray to give out to

everybody when it passed, but it never was passed. The result of the immense efforts—the whole goal—was to reduce the cost of healthcare premiums in the individual insurance market. President Trump worked well with us on that. Virginia McMillin and Liz Wroe did countless hours of work, but we couldn't quite get it across the finish line.

Then, this year, there was the shark tank. With the support of Senators BLUNT and SHELBY, we worked together with Francis Collins, of the National Institutes of Health, to create an initiative of \$2.5 billion to produce 50 million more COVID diagnostic tests a month than current technologies would do. Grace Graham, Melissa Pfaff, and Laura Friedel on Senator BLUNT's staff worked on that.

During all of this, Grace Graham was in her third trimester—not during all of it. During the latter part of this, she was in her third trimester. She was working on design policies and being a traffic cop between here and the House. To date, she and Stash, her husband, have had their first child, Penn. She is back at work, and the country is better off for everything that she has contributed.

Our committee leadership positions are often considered the plum positions, but you can do a whole lot with a talented personal staff. Ours has put in long hours and has met expectations. For example, on the Great American Outdoors Act, Anna Newton and Lindsay Garcia did yeoman's work. This is a bill that good people have literally been trying to pass since the Eisenhower years. It was the most important piece of outdoor legislation in that period of time.

With the Music Modernization Act, we worked with Senator Hatch and his staff. We eventually got 85 cosponsors, but this one nearly ran off the road several times. Lindsay Garcia and Paul McKernan made sure it became law.

The America COMPETES Act was back in my early years as a Senator, when I was very junior, so I got the Republican leader and the Democratic leader to cosponsor it. It passed with, I think, more than 60 cosponsors to improve our competitive position in the world.

Matt Sonnesyn and David Cleary were the key staffers on that. They were not just working with staff people around here. For example, with the America COMPETES Act, the bill wouldn't have passed if it had not been for 800 outdoor recreation environmental groups outside of Congress who supported the bill and encouraged Senators to get off planes and come back here to cast crucial votes. We are grateful for that. Matt Sonnesyn worked with the Iraq Study Group recommendations that we made during the George W. Bush years, and Erin Reif and Lucas DaPieve have been experts on foreign affairs and appropriations.

While I have been chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations, we

have had 5 straight years in a row—hopefully, we will have 6—of funding the Office of Science, which supports our 17 National Laboratories. We have also stepped up funding for all of the inland waterways, like Chickamauga Lock, and for supercomputing in order to keep us first in the world. Tom Craig, Tyler Owens, Meyer Seligman, Jen Armstrong, and Adam DeMella all played key roles in that.

I met every week with what I called my Energy Working Group. I found the intersection of energy and environment to be, really, the most fascinating new subject for me during my time as a Senator, and we did a lot of work on that both on the Committee on Appropriations and with other Senators. Meeting with that energy policy staff helped to get the America COMPETES Act passed. It stopped the Road to Nowhere in the Smokies. It pushed back on the efforts to promote Big Wind on our mountain ridges, and it resulted in record funding for energy and water development. Sharon Segner, Jessica Holliday, Conrad Schatte, and Lindsay Garcia all led those teams.

We spend a lot of time working with staff to get the policy right and trying to get the message right. You have to be able to persuade at least half the people that you are right in this business. Words matter. We spend a lot of time on headlines so that we convey what we are trying to do. The individuals who have led our communications unit include Alexia Poe, Harvey Valentine, Lee Pitts, Jim Jeffries, Brian Reisinger, Margaret Atkinson, Liz Wolgemuth, Ashton Davies, and Taylor Haulsee.

You can't run an effective office without a good office manager. We have had the best—Trina Tyrer and Debbie Paul. Misty Marshall came to us from the White House, where she was the director of correspondence for Laura Bush.

One of the toughest, most important jobs in the Senate office that people outside the Senate don't really appreciate as much is the job of scheduling. It requires constant changes, great discretion, enormous promptness, and attention to detail. Every day is a mismatch of meetings and calls. There is no schedule, really, in the U.S. Senate. You just kind of keep up with what is going on, and you put it down on a piece of paper. Suddenly, everything can get wiped out by an emergency call. Bonnie Sansonetti, Sarah Fairchild, and Alicyn York have been the very best.

The legislative director conducts the office orchestra. I have been very fortunate that Allison Martin has been our conductor. She used to work for Bill Frist and Fred Thompson. She is a West Tennessean, but the whole State is what she cares about as well as the country. If you were to look for somebody with her skill and talent, you would be looking for a very long time. David Cleary, Richard Hertling, Matt Sonnesyn, and David Morgenstern were also legislative directors.

One thing I know is I wouldn't be very good as a chief of staff, so I needed a very good chief of staff to do some things that I don't do as well. My first one was Tommy Ingram, whom I have known since 1966 when he was a Tennessean reporter, and I was working for Howard Baker in his second campaign. We have been friends ever since. He was my campaign manager and chief of staff as Governor. He did the same thing. He is really responsible for much of my success in politics.

David Morgenstern joined my staff in 2005 as legislative director, and he became chief of staff in 2009.

Matt Sonnesyn came to me from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He was initially a senior policy adviser. He was one of the few Republican students in the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, so he was well trained in defending his views.

Ryan Loskarn served as chief of staff starting in 2007.

Then, in my personal office, David Cleary has been the chief for the past 7 years. You can see him somewhere in an outrageous red and black suit on the Senate floor. David and I have worked together for almost 15 years. First, he served as staff director for the HELP Subcommittee on Children and Families. He used to work for John Boehner in the House.

In 2014, after becoming the ranking member of the HELP Committee, David suggested, as I said earlier, that he be both chief of staff and staff director of the committee. I recounted how, at first, I thought that was a bad idea, but it was one of the best ideas suggested to me because it made our staff so much more effective and work so much better. It was the key to our success, really, and I do not know of a more effective chief of staff of the Senate than David Cleary. He led our efforts to fix No Child Left Behind, the 21st Century Cures, the reauthorizing of Perkins, and the FDA user fees legislation. I appreciate how much time Marci, his wife, and Maria, their daughter, have given to our team.

To close, I would like to thank all 270 staff members who have given time and energy to our office. One of those, Reynard Graham, has been my administrative right hand for many years. His bigger job is that he is a minister on the weekends. There isn't time to recognize the accomplishments of each one by name, but there are many, and I am grateful to every single individual.

It has been a tremendous gift to work with a skilled and dedicated staff. Each person who has served in this office should be proud of what we have accomplished. I have been so fortunate to have been on the same team with each of you for the last 18 years.

In a farewell address yesterday, I said that I wake up every day thinking I might be able to do something good for our country and that I go to bed most nights thinking that I have. It has been a great privilege to be a U.S. Senator.

It has been a great privilege over these 18 years to work with such an exceptional staff.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of the names of my staff.

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

Keith Abraham, Halee Ackerman, Hayley Alexander, Abbey Allen, Stacy (Cline) Amin, Carrie Apostolou, Sarah Arbes, Katie Argo, Jen Armstrong, Abby Atkins, Margaret Atkinson, Jill Bader-Thompson, Jake Baker, Brandon Ball, Aaron Baluczynski, Andy Banducci, Kristin Bannerman-Herrmann, Kathryn Bell, Bailee Beshires, Anthony Birch.

Jeremy Boshwit, Lyndsay Botts, Jennifer Boyer, Charlie Brereton, Kelly Brexler, Palmer Brigham, Justine Brittain, Louie Brogdon, Austin Bryan, Adam Buckalew, Brenda Buescher, Ace Burch, Jonathan Burke, Andrew Burnett, David Campbell, Will Campbell, Victoria (Souza) Campbell, Meredith Carter, Laura Chambers-Crist, Robbie Champion.

Jane Chedester, Stephanie Chivers, Sarah Chu, David Cleary, Joseph Cody, Chris Connolly, Molly Conway, Mary Catherine Cook, Hannah Cornwell, Margaret Coulter, Tom Craig, Sydney Crawford, Starling Crossan, Joseph Cwiklinski, Lucas DaPieve, Ashton Davies, Elizabeth Davis, Adam DeMella, Evan Dixon, Christine Dodd.

Kay Durham, Emily Durnin, Jennifer Ellis, Grant English, Seth Ephrussi, Greg Facchiano, Sarah Fairchild, Anna Catherine Feaster, Qur'an Folsom, Kyle (Hicks) Fortson, Harrison Fox, Jr., Emily France, Evann Freeman, Lindsey Fryer, Alice Ganier, Kitty Ganier, Lindsay Garcia, Jaime Garden, Nick Geale, Elizabeth Gibson.

Randall Gibson, Jr., Houston Goddard, Meredith Good-Cohn, Laura Ray Goodrich, Carolyn Gorman, Elizabeth Gorman, Reynard Graham, Grace (Stuntz) Graham, John Grant, Jon Grayson, Sarah Greene, Sharon Hagget, Daniel Hale, Jeremy Harrell, Brandon Harrison, Heather Hatcher, Jenn Hatfield, Taylor Haulsee, Crystal Hayslett, Faye Head.

William Heartsill, Alicia Hennie, Richard Hertling, John Herzog, Laura (Lefler) Herzog, Kai Hirabayashi, Madison Hite, Jessica Holliday, Alexander Honeycutt, Derek Horne, Elizabeth Howell, Haley Hudler, Kara Huffstutter, Jones Hussey, Jordan Hynes, Joel Igelhart, Neena Imam, Tom Ingram, Charlotte Jackson, Patrick Jaynes.

Jill Jaynes, Jim Jeffries, Lora Jobe, Tonya Johnson, Madeline Jurch, Nora Khalil, Lina Kilani, Kimberly Kirkpatrick, Emily Kirlin, Katherine Knight, Bill Knudsen, Hillary Knudson, Page Kranbuhl, Andrew LaCasse, Lesley Landrum, Mary-Sumpter Lapinski, Trey Lefler, Jeff Lewis, Bridget Lipscomb, Rachel Littleton.

Anne Locke, Brett Logan, Linda Long, Ryan Loskarn, Molly Lukic, Nick Magallanes, Christina Mandreucci, Molly Marsh, Misty Marshall, Allison Martin, David McAdam, Meghan McCully, Paul McKernan, Mackensie (Burt) McKernan, Bobby McMillin, Virginia (Heppner) McMillin, Kayla McMurry, Brett Meeks, Michael Merrell, Will Meyer IV.

Latonya Miller, Meade Miller-Carlisle, Scot Montrey, Lana Moore, Bob Moran, David Morgenstern, Jennifer Moroney, Nicole Morse, Brandon Morton, Kim Morton, Jeff Muhs, Patrick Murray, Katie Neal, Beth Nelson, Anna Newton, Laura Marks O'Brien, Andrew Offenburger, Katie Oglesby, Peter Oppenheim, Tyler Owens.

Mary Parkerson, Will Patterson, Debbie Paul, Megan Paulsen, Austin Payne, Constance Payne, Laura Pence, Kelly Perry,

Morgan Petty, Melissa Pfaff, Charlie Phelps, Jr.; Lee Pitts, Alexia Poe, Greg Proseus, Erin Reif, Brian Reisinger, Sarah Rittling, John Rivard, Michelle Rodriguez, Adam Rondinone.

Kristin Rosa, Kristyn Royster, Marguerite (Sallee) Kondracke, Bonnie Sansonetti, Sandra SawanLara, Conrad Schatte, Lowell Schiller, Michael Schulz, Lauren (Davies) Schwensen, Kelly Scott, Sharon Segner, Lindsey (Ward) Seidman, Meyer Seligman, Erin Shea, Trina (Eager) Shiffman, Tyler Shrive, Aliza (Fishbein) Silver, Tiffany Smith, Kathleen Smith, LaShawnda Smith.

Rhonda Smithson, Charles Snodgrass, Matt Sonnesyn, Daniel Soto, Kristin (Nelson) Spiridon, Riley Stamper, Daniel Stanley, Matthew Stern, Deborah Sturdivant, Bill Sullivan, Carey Sullivan, Curtis Swager, Caroline Taylor, Rhonda Thames, Josh Thomas, Nathan Thomas, Kristi Thompson, Sean Thurman, Kara Townsend, Diane Tran.

Bill Tucker, Harvey Valentine, Tim Valentine, Curtis Vann, Matt Varino, Andy Vogt, Sandra Wade, Jack Wells, Marty West, Mitch Whalen, Rob Wharton, Louann White, Donovan Whiteside, Brent Wiles, Samantha Williams, Liz Wolgemuth, Mary Wooldridge, Liz Wroe, Sharon Yecies, Alicyn York.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, let me join with so many of my colleagues in wishing our distinguished friend and Senator from Tennessee best wishes.

Thank you, Senator ALEXANDER, for your incredible leadership and working across the aisle. So many good things that you have talked about are so meaningful to all of us. I appreciate the way you have conducted yourself with the committees and with Members, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you. Electric vehicles didn't quite get across the line this year with what we wanted to do in terms of tax cuts, but I appreciate the chance to have been able to partner with you. Certainly, I wish you the best in your next steps in work as you end the year with your family. In whatever you do, I know you will be very successful.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, it might be hard to believe it is actually December. In normal times, a lot of families in Michigan would be focused on getting ready for the holidays, and while Michigan children might still be counting down the days until Santa arrives, their parents have a lot bigger issues weighing on their minds.

A Michigan dad has been out of work for months and is wondering how long his family will be able to keep scraping by in the new year after his unemployment runs out.

A Michigan single mom whose hours have been cut and who has been unable to pay the rent for months is wondering just how long it will be until her family will be out on the street.

The owner of a Michigan small business is wondering if he will see enough of a holiday boost to keep the doors

open and his three employees on the payroll.

A Michigan retiree who struggles to buy enough groceries is wondering if it is safe to wait in a long line at her local food bank or if that is where she will get sick.

Michigan families who have seen almost 9,300 of their grandparents and neighbors and uncles and cousins and friends and community leaders get sick and die from this horrible virus are wondering who is going to be next.

The truth is that we are not just facing a health crisis right now—we are facing an economic crisis; we are facing a housing crisis; and we are facing a hunger crisis all at the same time. Coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths keep rising, and we haven't even seen the effects of Thanksgiving gatherings yet. We are seeing unemployment claims tick up, and those are expected to get worse after seasonal jobs will be cut in January.

Some studies have estimated that about 40 million renters in the United States are at risk of losing their homes. There are already 10,000 eviction actions that have been filed in a number of States. Those are 10,000 families who need to find new places to live right now, in the winter, in the middle of a health pandemic.

We have all seen the massive lines of cars at food banks across the country. In a normal year, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan helps about 14 percent of the population in 22 counties get enough food to eat. This year, it is helping 40 percent to put food on the table. Before COVID-19, the South Michigan Food Bank provided food to about 80 families a week. Now it is helping more than 500 families a week. This is an emergency. These families, businesses, community organizations, and seniors can't just wait around, hoping for a Christmas miracle. They need help now, and it is our responsibility to do it now.

That is why I am so pleased that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been working to come together on additional help. There are still a lot of details to work out, but I am hopeful, in being part of the process on the workings of the details, that we are going to be able to come together on an agreement that will help families and businesses and communities get through these tough times.

Whatever agreement we reach won't be perfect. We know that. It won't be everything everybody wants. Yet we can't wait because time is quickly running out. On December 26—only 23 days from now—vital unemployment programs will expire, cutting off benefits that millions of workers will need to be able to provide for their families.

If you are self-employed, if you are a contract worker, if you are a gig worker, suddenly you will have zero help—zero.

Five days after that, on December 31, the Federal Reserve's emergency lending program ends. That will cut off cru-

cial credit that is keeping businesses open and helping State and local governments provide necessary services.

Also on December 31, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's eviction moratorium expires, and the Federal foreclosure moratorium and some opportunities for forbearance expire.

Imagine what it would be like to begin a new year with no roof over your head or your family's, no place for your children to sleep, and no place to stay clean in the middle of a raging pandemic.

And on January 1, millions of student loan borrowers will have to resume their payments whether they can afford them or not.

These programs have been, literally, a lifeline for families, for communities, for businesses during the pandemic. And while vaccines are on the horizon and we are so happy to hear the progress, this pandemic is far from over. Cutting off this vital help now would be like an ambulance driver stopping 2 miles short of the hospital and making the accident victim get out and walk the rest of the way to the emergency room.

We need to face this health crisis, this economic crisis, this housing crisis, this hunger crisis with seriousness and boldness. People in Michigan and across the country are crying out for help. It is time for this body to listen. It is time for Congress to lead.

We should not go home until we have passed at least a short-term survival package to help Americans through the next few months. That is our job. That is our job, and we should not go home until that job is done.

We are the United States of America—United States of America. Nothing is holding us back from helping our citizens other than people's unwillingness to do it. Nothing.

We are the United States of America. There is no reason we are not coming together, and shame on the Congress and the White House if we don't act now to help our citizens.

There is nothing holding us back but the political will to do it, and it needs to get done. There are many of us now on both sides of the aisle working to do that, and we need to make sure that people lean in together and get this done.

I yield the floor.

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

#### REMEMBERING OFFICER CASSIE JOHNSON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to talk of one of West Virginia's very own—Police Officer Cassie Johnson.

Officer Johnson was a member of her hometown of Charleston's police department, where she joined less than 2 short years ago.

She was a devoted daughter, sister, a loyal friend, and a lover of animals.

She had three dogs. She was formerly a humane officer, as well, in our community. And, boy, did she have a bright future ahead of her.

On Tuesday, the Charleston Police Department received a call about a traffic complaint. Officer Johnson answered that call and responded accordingly, just as she would have any other call.

Shortly after arriving at that location, she was shot in the chest. The bullet hit her badge and deflected into her neck, where it eventually struck a main artery.

She was rushed to the hospital, and every effort was made to save her life. She was 28. She was 28 years old.

Sadly, we learned yesterday that the decision was made to remove her from life support, and she will not be able to pull through.

We also learned that Officer Johnson is an organ donor, which means she will be able to share the gift of life with others.

I had the opportunity to speak with Officer Johnson's mother Sheryl just this morning, and she expressed to me her daughter's commitment to organ donation. She said that her daughter felt very strongly about giving this gift to others in the event that something like this could happen. She was very clear about her wishes, and I think that is a testament to the kind of person Officer Johnson was.

As former Charleston Police Department Lieutenant Paul Perdue said, "The end of her life will be the second beginning for others and that's just who she was."

As you can imagine, our community is hurting, and all of our law enforcement across the country is hurting today for our community and Officer Johnson's family.

But the outpour of support has just been incredible to witness. Throughout this week, West Virginians have been honoring Officer Johnson's life in so many ways, such as in Charleston, where our beautiful coliseum and civic center has been lit in blue in honor of her and our law enforcement.

There has been a great money-raising effort to help Officer Johnson's family meet what is going to be a financial challenge. And what do we do with her pets? There has been an effort to have her pets adopted. I just read before I came in here that the GoFundMe page for Officer Johnson had already exceeded its goal, and, hopefully, it will continue to grow.

Last night a candle vigil was held outdoors to honor her life and legacy, where the community leaders spoke and Officer Johnson's mother Sheryl spoke. It is a tough duty, a tough assignment for any mom.

During the vigil, her mother spoke about Officer Johnson's love for her community, about her desire to protect everyone she was surrounded by.

You know, when I talked to her mother this morning, she echoed those same sentiments in the phone con-

versation that we had, and she said that hundreds of West Virginians had reached out to her personally. Many had stopped by the hospital, wanting to say goodbye to Officer Johnson. These gestures have just been so touching, and I could tell it really helped her family and, in particular, her mother Sheryl.

Charleston Police Chief Tyke Hunt told Officer Johnson's mother that she raised her right, and that Officer Johnson was "a good-hearted soul who had to pay the ultimate sacrifice."

Chief Hunt is right. It is a bitter pill.

In a local interview following her swearing-in, Officer Johnson said: "I am really happy to finally getting to follow my dreams in working with Charleston PD."

She continued by saying: "I've grown up and lived in Charleston my whole life. I just wanted to help make my city a better place—and be there and to be able to help the citizens of this city."

This job was a dream come true for Officer Johnson. She loved her community, and our community loved her back. Like all of our law enforcement, Officer Johnson cared for us and was fiercely dedicated to protecting her community—and that is my community. When I think of Officer Johnson, I think of her protecting my family and my neighbors, my community, the larger community of Charleston.

Police officers like Officer Johnson selflessly put their lives on the line every day for the safety of our communities. They never know what is around the corner. They never know. She thought she was going for a parking violation. It is a hard job and one that is rarely appreciated enough.

I ask—if you have heard this today or if you have read about this—that we all take a minute today and every day to thank our law enforcement and recognize the sacrifices that they make to ensure that our communities are safe and protected.

I would also ask you to keep the Johnson family in your hearts and prayers—our chief, Chief Hunt of the Charleston Police Department, and all of her brothers and sisters in the police department and the first responders.

Our mayor, Mayor Amy Goodwin, has done a wonderful job of bringing the community together and showing a wonderful show of support for Officer Cassie Johnson and her family, and I thank her.

The entire city of Charleston is hurting, so please keep them in your hearts and prayers as well.

With that very difficult time, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the legislative year is quickly drawing to a close, but the lights on the 116th Congress haven't gone out yet. Before the

House and the Senate gavel out for the final time this Congress, we still have a lot of work to do.

Headlines have focused on the large, "must-pass" legislation, which will require a good amount of debate and compromise in the coming days—things like government funding, the National Defense Authorization bill, and another COVID-19 relief package. But there are actually countless other bills that have already passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support and continue to linger in purgatory on the House's legislative calendar.

After weeks, months, and, in some cases, more than a year of waiting, the Speaker and the House leadership refuse to let these commonsense bipartisan bills have a vote on the House floor. Just to give you an idea of the type of legislation they are holding up, let's start with the Jenna Quinn Law. This legislation carries the name of an inspiring young Texan who is a survivor of child sexual abuse and who has made it her mission in life to end the cycle of abuse that harms our children in communities across the country.

Jenna was the driving force behind a 2009 Texas law requiring training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children on how to prevent, recognize, and report child sexual abuse. You can imagine the teachers, in particular, who spend—at least before COVID—day after day after day with children. They are actually in the best position, sometimes, to identify symptoms of sexual abuse, if properly trained.

Since 2009, a number of other States have passed similar laws, but the training often lacks adequate funding, and that is where our Federal legislation comes in. I introduced this bipartisan bill with Senator HASSAN from New Hampshire to finally back that training with Federal funding through grants from the Department of Health and Human Services. At a time when the experts believe that abuse is on the rise as families are isolated at home due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts, this legislation could not be more urgent.

Despite the fact that this bill will deliver real change for the most vulnerable in our communities and that it passed the Senate with unanimous support, the House refuses to even vote on it. House Democrats have chosen to hold this lifesaving legislation hostage in order to advance a partisan bill that they know has no chance of becoming law.

Unfortunately, those are the types of games that, sadly, we have had to become accustomed to when it comes to House Democrats. But, as I said, this is only one of a long list of bills that they are sitting on.

Over the summer, the Senate passed legislation that had taken aim at another crisis harming our children, which is e-cigarettes. Prior to COVID-19, headlines were dominated by stories



about mysterious vaping-related illnesses and healthy teenagers being admitted to emergency rooms with symptoms usually associated only with decades-long smokers.

Well, to state the obvious, the most effective way to prevent children from becoming addicted to these devices is to stop them from getting their hands on them in the first place. If the 16-year-old went to a gas station or convenience store and attempted to buy an e-cigarette, they would be turned away because that sale could not take place without a proper ID, but those same age-verification requirements don't apply to online purchases. Devices can be ordered and delivered without any proof of age or an ID.

Senator FEINSTEIN, the senior Senator from California, and I introduced legislation to change that and ensure that online purchases are subject to the same age verification requirements as those made in person. Once again, this legislation passed the Senate unanimously, but the House has refused to take any action.

And here is another one. Last month, we passed a bill to provide mental healthcare to those transitioning out of the criminal justice system. More than half of the individuals in the criminal justice system have experienced a mental health issue, and our justice system too often fails to provide adequate diagnosis and treatment.

But even when these individuals do receive treatment while incarcerated, they are rarely given the tools they need to succeed upon release. Approximately 80 percent of the people are uninsured after being released, making it nearly impossible for them to continue mental health treatment without additional safety net provisions.

Senator BLUMENTHAL, our colleague from Connecticut, and I introduced legislation to support those who have become part of our criminal justice system who have decided to turn their lives around and to provide them stable treatment if they suffer from a mental illness as they transition out of incarceration. That is not only in their best interest, but it is in the best interest of the larger community, because these people, rather than being a danger to the community, can contribute to the community.

This legislation passed the Senate with unanimous support, but, once again, no movement in the House, and the list goes on and on and on.

We unanimously approved legislation to provide justice to families of human smuggling victims and assistance to local communities battling the problem, to help State and local governments strengthen their cyber security and safeguard their elections, and to increase cross-border economic and educational partnerships with Mexico.

Those half dozen bills I just named are only a handful of the ones I introduced that have passed the Senate but are collecting dust on the House cal-

endar. Add in the long list of bills led by our Republican and Democratic colleagues, and we have a major legislative logjam in the House.

As I understand it, next week is set to be the House's last workweek of the 116th Congress. That means that, unless Speaker PELOSI and House Democratic leadership allow movement on these compromise, commonsense bipartisan bills, we are going to have to start from square one. We are going to have to start all over again in the next Congress.

Now, I know it is not unusual for a Member of Congress to take legislative hostages to advance their own agenda, but this is not a time to play those kinds of politics, particularly on these kinds of subjects. These aren't controversial bills. We are talking about grants to prevent child sexual abuse, reform to stop kids from buying e-cigarettes online, a lifeline of hope for folks who suffer from mental illness and are transitioning from our criminal justice system, and so much more.

As I said, these bills are just one step away from heading to the President's desk for his signature, so it is time for Speaker PELOSI and the leadership of the House to quit playing games and allow the House to vote on these life-changing bills.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ENZI

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on another matter, we know we have a lot of lawyers in Congress, and we have some former businessmen. We even have people who are lawyers and businessmen who serve in our midst. They are doctors, educators. We have a few farmers. But we have only two accountants, to my knowledge, one of whom is our friend MIKE ENZI.

For those of us who have long fought to rein in spending and to get our national debt in check, MIKE's contribution to those efforts has been invaluable. But that is only part of the reason we are sad to say farewell to such an incredible colleague.

Long before Senator ENZI's career in politics or even accounting, he joined the family shoe business, cleverly named "NZ Shoes"—that is capital "N," capital "Z," Shoes. It wasn't long before our friend MIKE, at the young age of 30, was lured into a life of public service and elected mayor of Gillette, WY. His career would lead him to the Department of the Interior, the Wyoming State House and Senate, and eventually here to the U.S. Senate. But Senator ENZI still holds on to the lessons he learned in those early days selling shoes.

A few years ago, he said:

Legislating is like selling shoes. You have to know your market, what they want, and who's willing to buy what you're [selling].

Well, I don't know how effective MIKE was as a shoe salesman, but I can tell you that he has been a master broker here in the Senate. I still remember when I came to the Senate,

the liberal lion of the Senate, Ted Kennedy, was serving with MIKE ENZI on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. They were enormously productive—one of the most conservative Members and one of the most liberal Members of the U.S. Senate. So I asked MIKE, our friend Senator ENZI: How do you do it?

He said: It is simple. It is the 80-20 rule. You take the 80 percent that you can agree on, the common ground, and you get it done, and you leave the 20 percent that you can't agree on to another day and another fight.

That is the kind of common sense we need more of here in the U.S. Senate when it comes to solving our Nation's problems.

When there are big debates on policy or high-stakes negotiations, Senator ENZI is not one to share his opinions with reporters in the hallways or, thankfully, to air his grievances on national television, but he does work behind the scenes, settling disagreements with private phone calls and meetings rather than fiery speeches and press releases.

There is no question he has had to settle a lot of disagreements during his 24 years in the Senate, especially, as I said, during his time on the HELP Committee and as chairman of the Budget Committee. We have 100 individuals in the Senate from all across this big and diverse Nation of ours who have very different ideas about what should be done and opinions on how to get it done, but part of what makes him so successful is settling those differences—look past the areas where we disagree, and look at common ground.

Besides the 80-20 rule that has forever stuck in my mind as a great formula for solving problems and getting things done, MIKE has a great attitude about life—one that I find very positive and inspiring, even. He says: "You have to have an attitude of gratitude."

That is another thing I will remember about MIKE ENZI—always grateful for his ability to serve his fellow Wyoming citizens, for his family, his wonderful family, and for this great country that we live in. I know he is eager to spend more time enjoying the great outdoors. MIKE has said he wants to actually go fishing in all 50 States. I don't know how many States he has not yet fished in, but after he leaves the U.S. Senate, hopefully he will accomplish his goal of going fishing in all 50 States of the Union.

We will miss him here in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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. 649.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, 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 bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 911.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

## 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 bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

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

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Kevin Cramer, Shelley Moore Capito, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Marco Rubio, Mike Crapo, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Marsha Blackburn, Steve Daines.

## 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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. 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 VACCINE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, the Presiding Officer and I are here, and we have been meeting today in Washington at, really, a groundbreaking moment as we continue this battle for our health, for our economy, and against the virus. What makes this such a critical moment are the developments we have seen in the last 10 days regarding a vaccine.

Public health experts around the world have agreed, almost from day one, that the way to really find the end of this pandemic—the ultimate weapon—would be to develop a vaccine that worked. Less than a year ago, which was in January and February of this year, we were hearing that 2 years would set a record for developing a vaccine and that sometimes a vaccine that has been developed on a new disease like this has taken 3 and 5 and even 10 years or more. Yet here we are, less a year from the discovery of COVID-19, with not just one vaccine but two vaccines that have already applied for their use permits. Both vaccines have shown an effectiveness of more than 90 percent, and a third vaccine with a similar response is about to get to the place at which it, too, can apply for use.

These are incredible numbers. It wasn't that many months ago that healthcare experts were saying, if we get a vaccine that is effective 50 percent of the time or more, that the government should consider accepting that vaccine and making it available to people, and here we are with a 90 percent effective vaccine. I had the measles, and my kids had the measles shot, which seemed to pretty much eliminate the measles. It was 90 percent ef-

fective. This is the kind of vaccine that has been the most effective among the most effective vaccines we have ever had.

Pfizer and Moderna have both come forward and asked for their emergency use authorizations. The emergency use doesn't really mean they have cut any corners. The only thing we have failed to do is to watch the 30,000 or so people for another 2 or 3 years who were in both of these trials. That is why we can't say with certainty if this vaccine will last for a lifetime or if this vaccine will be a 3-year vaccine or even a 1-year vaccine. What we can say with certainty is that, about 95 percent of the time, it will prevent you from getting the disease. Of course, if people are prevented from getting the disease, they can't spread the disease, and that is why a 90 percent effective vaccine, like the measles vaccine, was basically 100 percent effective as long as people took it.

So we need to step back, really, I think, and look at the unconventional way we got here. How did we get from 3 to 5 to, maybe, 10 years to less than a year of discovering a virus for the very first time to our having a vaccine?

The way that researchers have been able to move forward with this and the way that Congress and the Trump administration have responded to this pandemic has been extraordinary. In our country, Operation Warp Speed has accelerated the development of this new vaccine through a fast-track process that could be described, really, in one word—unprecedented. Normally, vaccines take years. Researchers have to go out and secure funding, get approvals, and study results step by step to get to where we are today. Only then would a vaccine be determined to be safe and effective, and only then would manufacturing begin.

Normally, with a vaccine, the day the vaccine is approved is the day you start manufacturing. We know that this is not what is happening here. In fact, in just a few minutes, I am going to mention that the head of distribution is saying, on the day the vaccine is approved, we will start shipping millions of copies of that vaccine all over the country.

This all really started with Congress's deciding, as we put these COVID relief packages together from the very first couple of packages, that when it came to a cure, we were not going to let funding stand in the way nor were we going to let it stand in the way of investing some money somewhere that just simply didn't work because, by investing money where it didn't work, it allowed us to invest money where it did work. Congress appropriated \$18 billion for vaccines and testing. About \$12.5 billion has gone into the vaccine side. Most of the rest has gone into testing, with some going into therapy. This is a decision Congress made. With this vaccine, we are going to become partners in developing how we fight back.

There was a risk that some of the vaccine candidates we supported wouldn't make it, but there was never a risk that the vaccine candidates that did make it wouldn't be as safe as any vaccine has ever been. In fact, many of these vaccines have had more people involved in the studies than ever before. Because of the virulence of the virus, the people in the studies, frankly, were more likely than not to be exposed to COVID, and a bunch of them were more likely than not to catch it. Of course, that is the moment when you decide if the group that caught the virus was the group that had the vaccine—the group that had the vaccine in these studies—or if it were the group that didn't have the vaccine. What we found out was, 95 percent of the time, it was the group that didn't have the vaccine, which is where you get that 95 percent number.

Congress provided that we would take some risk. We so often hear that failure is not an option. In this case, if you didn't fail, you were not trying hard enough. If all you wind up with are things that have gotten approved, then you probably have left some things on the table that you should have tried.

The Presiding Officer is a great businessman, and he knows, if you are in a business that is growing, you are going to have some failures. If you have never had failures in your business, you have not tried anything new, which means you probably haven't grown. So we would have failures not in a vaccine that we would give to people but by thinking: This would appear like it would have a good chance of being approved, so let's put it in the group of vaccines that we are working on.

President Trump and Operation Warp Speed stepped up and decided they were going to move at a faster pace than ever before but with more safety than we have had in most vaccine developments in the history of the country. So we decided to support several vaccines that, again, we thought had a better chance of being approved than not. Now, you take some risk in that because all of the vaccines won't be approved, but you take no risk if you are going to support a vaccine that is approved but that is not safe. Yet that is not what happened at all. You just put a lot of racehorses in the race.

The dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor University says, if you are racing to get a vaccine quickly, one way to do it is to put as many horses in the race as you can, and that is exactly what we have done. We have invested in several potential vaccines and, I think, three different paths to a vaccine, which means that all of the vaccines that are approved will not be exactly the same in how you have to store them, in how you have to transport them, and whether you have to have one shot or two to have the full vaccine.

And we have signed contracts with six leading candidates already. We

have invested \$2.5 billion to help develop and purchase 100 million doses of the vaccine being developed by Moderna. That was jointly developed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the company.

We have dedicated \$2 billion in a different pattern to purchase 100 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, and we have done that with that investment in a way that allows us to shorten the processing time, combining various study phases and clinical trials going on at the same time and moving forward in a way that also allowed us to be manufacturing vaccines while we were still studying and moving toward final approval by the FDA.

So we have two vaccines standing and ready now for final approval, another one to join them soon, and another one to join them quickly after that. But all of them are already in the stage of manufacturing.

So what is the worst thing that could have happened to taxpayers? We invest in a vaccine that turns out not to work, and, at that point we step in, meet our commitment—in essence, buy the vaccine that didn't work—be sure that it is effectively destroyed, and realize that that was a chance that we took that didn't produce a result. But the other vaccines that did work had a result and had vaccine available as soon as they were approved.

In fact, General Perna, Operation Warp Speed's chief operating officer, said the government would begin vaccinations within 24 hours after a vaccine secures FDA approval. In the past, I would say you would be closer to saying it will be 12 or 24 months after approval before the first vaccine is ready to go to the first person, but now we are saying 24 hours, and we are on the edge of that 24 hours.

I talked today with the Governor of my State, the Governor of Missouri, Mike Parson, and the head of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Dr. Randall Williams, about what they were doing. They submitted a plan early. I was with the Governor—I think it was in mid-August—when the Centers for Disease Control told all the Governors: We want to have a plan by the end of October of how you are going to distribute this vaccine when you get it.

I said at about that same time that if we failed in our effort to get the vaccine effectively distributed after the effort we made to get it, it would be one of the great government failures of all time.

But Governor Parson, Dr. Williams, and others who have worked hard on this in our State put a plan in and put it in pretty early and now are ready to execute that plan as soon as they have the vaccine available to them.

About 2 percent of the population of the country lives in Missouri, and so about 2 percent of every distribution will go to Missouri as vaccines are ready.

Pfizer will have about 25 million vaccines to distribute almost immediately. Moderna will have about 20 million to distribute almost immediately. And we know that others are standing right behind them.

Another thing that Congress asked the Centers for Disease Control to do was to come up with a recommendation on who the vaccine should be given to. And just this week the CDC advisory committee made their recommendation to the Centers for Disease Control. Either today or sometime soon after today, the CDC, in all likelihood, will adopt those recommendations as they have in this past.

The recommendations go something like this: First, you want to prioritize healthcare workers and people most likely to have the worst result if they catch the virus. So if you take all the healthcare workers in America and all the people in a senior living kind of condition in America, you are talking about around 15 percent of the population.

Somewhere in there, either in that group or the next group, you include all the first responders and police officers in the country, who come into situations so often that they have no control over, and then you go to the other essential employees in America—the childcare center worker, the schoolteacher, the busdriver, the grocery store clerk, the food processing person who is out there making this happen.

I think there has been some decision made on the healthcare workers that we should include clergy in the healthcare workers because they are so often present in hospitals and with people in circumstances where they would like to see someone from their faith present, but that person also is a healthcare provider in the healthcare network and, just like others working in the hospital, will be able to get that early vaccination.

But let's go back to the essential workforce. The essential workforce of the groups we have talked about and others who come into lots of contact with people are often least able to make arrangements in their own time to even get a vaccine if it is for free. They are going to be a big priority.

When I go to the grocery store and I ask someone for help, which I often need to do to find the one thing on my list I don't know how to find, or when I go by to check out with the grocery store clerk, if the grocery store clerk, no matter how big the shield is between them and me, if they couldn't possibly get it from the person who checked out 2 days earlier or early that day, they can't possibly give it to me.

So every step of the way, the whole country becomes safer until, hopefully, by the end of April or so, we are at a place where everybody has access to the vaccine.

By the way, by the time you do the 15 percent of the population that is most likely to have a bad result if they get the virus and healthcare workers and

add that to the 35 percent of the population that is the essential workforce, that is 50 percent of the population that could have the vaccine if they chose to have it.

I think most people think that we are there, in our State and other places, by sometime in April. In fact, Dr. Fauci said that Americans determined to be at the highest risk—healthcare workers, frontline workers, seniors, those with underlying conditions—could be vaccinated by the end of the year.

Certainly, if there is a second shot, it might be by the end of January, and you have 15 percent of the whole population vaccinated by the end of January or sometime in January, and another 35 percent would have the vaccine available to them by sometime in April.

Then we look at the rest of the population. But in each step of the way—let me say again—every time you take somebody off the playing field of where contact with the virus could successfully occur, everybody else gets safer too.

If a person who has been vaccinated is where the germs happen to land instead of the person standing beside them who wasn't vaccinated, the life of that particular germ is gone, and eventually that is how you emerge from a pandemic. There just aren't enough people left for this to land on that either haven't had it or haven't had the vaccine to prevent it.

It is a critical time. It is an important time. I think we have written two new chapters in pandemic response, both in testing and in vaccines.

Operation Warp Speed has done in months what typically can take 10 to 15 years and, even in an expedited way, can take 2 to 3 to 5 years.

Given the urgent need to beat this virus, I think Operation Warp Speed, with the great scientific community—a lot of this is built on research that was funded by NIH. One of the priorities of the Congress for the last 5 years has been to increase NIH funding, at a time when we know more about genetics.

Two of these vaccines are basically based on the molecular code that is sort of the software for genetics. It is a different way than vaccines have been developed before and would not have been developed without government-encouraged research.

Having a diverse selection of vaccines means there are different people producing vaccines at the same time in different places, and we will have, more likely, a quick and fair distribution of any FDA-authorized vaccines.

Certainly, I have been frustrated, as many of us have, to think that we have not been able to reach an agreement on what money we might need to finish this vaccine effort, the distribution effort.

Hopefully, we can come to the next round of COVID relief sooner rather than later.

As I said earlier this week, a targeted funding package now will have a lot

more impact than a much bigger package would have 4 or 5 months from now. There is no reason we shouldn't be able to find common ground. This is a time when we can make that effort to finish the job. The pandemic is affecting Americans every day. I have talked to a lot of people who have seen greater numbers of drug dependency and huge declines in mental health because that support network is gone and isolation has taken over, and worry about family, finances, and health has become a big part of that.

Let's show the people we work for that we are going to be able to continue this job, and let's praise the great researchers in our country and others who stepped forward in incredible ways to do things that just 9 months ago nobody thought could possibly be established in the timeframe we are working on right now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 568.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUNT. 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.

### REMEMBERING CHARLES CARROLL SMITH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to say fare-

well to a friend and a public servant who served my State of Illinois and our Nation well. His name was Charles Carroll Smith, but his friends called him Charlie. He died on the day after Thanksgiving. Our paths crossed often over the years.

Charlie served as Illinois' deputy secretary of state under then-Secretary of State Alan Dixon. When Alan Dixon was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980, Charlie came to Washington with him. He was a key member of the Dixon staff, serving as both legislative director and senior national security adviser. When Alan Dixon left the Senate, Charlie joined the staff of Kentucky Senator Wendell Ford, then the Senate's Democratic whip. Charlie was Senator Ford's legislative staff director and a trusted adviser to Senator Ford on matters involving national security and foreign relations.

He helped craft and pass many important pieces of legislation, including the 1990 law establishing the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission in 1990. He went on to serve as executive director of the 1995 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission—a massive task to try to realign America's military bases with the realities of the post-Cold War world.

The work of the Base Closure Commission was necessary, complex, and historic, and Charlie's intricate understanding of both the Defense Department and the security needs of America and our allies was critical to the commission's success. Despite the gargantuan task, Charlie was never too busy to listen. I and all of the Members of the Illinois congressional delegation appreciated his willingness to always consider fairly our explanations about the national security importance of the military bases in our State. He never put his thumb on the scale for Illinois, but he made sure that we received a fair hearing. The day the commission announced its recommendations in 2005, Charlie called me to explain in layman's language just what the recommendations meant for Illinois and for America. I have never met anyone with a greater understanding of the workings of the Defense Department and the ability to translate that knowledge into plain English. He was a rare one.

Charlie came by his political and legislative skills the old-fashioned way. He inherited them. He grew up in an Irish Catholic Democratic family on the North Side of Chicago. His father was in politics; his mother was a professor. Charlie was the first-born and only son in the family of three children.

The Smith family took politics and democracy seriously. Charlie and his father were both named Charles Carroll Smith, senior and junior. Family legend has it that they were descended from Charles Carroll, one of the signers of America's Declaration of Independence and a member of the Continental Congress. Whether it was true or not—

this was before at-home DNA testing—the Smith family strove to live up to Charles Carroll's patriotic example.

When Charlie was about 11, his father decided that the Smith family home should be a laboratory of democracy. They would discuss important events at the dinner table, and once a week, they would have a meeting to vote on matters involving the family. After just one or two of these family meetings, Charlie had an epiphany. He told his sister Sheila: "You know, if we three kids stick together, we can out-vote Mom and Dad." He said: "I want a bike. What do you want?" Charlie figured out what both of his sisters wanted and how to deliver it. At the next family meeting, the girls supported Charlie's proposal to buy him a bike. The kids won, and Charlie got his bike. The Smith family never held another family vote, but Charlie would go on to use his coalition-building skills in the interest of public service for the rest of his life.

In 1968, Charlie joined the U.S. Army and served as an intelligence officer in Vietnam during the Tet offensive.

He left public service in 1999 and began his second career as a lobbyist. He was respected by members of Congress on both sides of the aisle as a straight shooter and a good man.

Besides his family, politics, and public service, Charlie loved the Chicago Bears and the Cubs and playing golf. Every Christmas season, Charlie hosted a party for his friends at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. It was always a great, bipartisan celebration. This Friday, Charlie's friends will gather by Zoom to remember him on what would have been his 26th annual Christmas party. He will be missed there, and he will be missed in the halls of Congress, in his old neighborhood in Chicago, and many other places.

Loretta and I send our condolences to Charlie's wife Patti Turner; his sisters, Sheila Smith and Catherine Wilson; and his many, many friends.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LAURA NOWLIN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Laura Nowlin of Teton County for her compassion and dedication to her community.

Since 1986, Laura has devoted her time to working at the Teton County Food Pantry as both a volunteer and a member of the executive board. Over the course of her 33 years at the food pantry, she ensured families in the community had healthy and hearty groceries with no exceptions. Rain or shine, Laura was always there to help the people of Teton County get the nutrition they needed.

Recently named a board member emeritus of the pantry, Laura will be dearly missed by her colleagues. Her

unwavering selflessness was an incredibly valuable asset to both the pantry and her community.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Laura for her tireless service to the people of Teton County. Her kindness and charitable approach to work serves as an inspiration to all Montanans who serve our communities.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ROY LEE LINDSEY

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Roy Lee Lindsey for his 22 years of service at the Oklahoma Pork Council. Since 1998, he has served as a steadfast advocate for pork producers and the agriculture industry in Oklahoma and we are grateful for his years of service.

Over the years, I have had the experience of working directly with Roy Lee on a number of issues, and I have greatly valued his insight, partnership, and dedication to ensuring the hard-working pork producers in the State of Oklahoma have access to the Federal resources they need. Anyone who has had the pleasure to meet and work with Roy Lee can attest for his love of the state of Oklahoma and the pork industry. His unwavering passion and dedication have enabled him to be an extraordinary ambassador for Oklahoma, both regionally and nationally.

From sharing producers' perspectives on multiple farm bill reauthorizations to engaging in workforce development initiatives to educate our future generation of farmers, Roy Lee has always provided a judicious, thoughtful, and considerate perspective on Federal policy. His understanding of the challenges of agriculture production and appreciation for the producers he represents has consistently been apparent in his advocacy efforts and instrumental in the pork industry's growth and prosperity in Oklahoma.

I know I join his family and all that know him in thanking him for his years of service and contributions to Oklahoma and our entire agriculture community.●

##### TRIBUTE TO BRENT HILL

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, along with my colleague Senator MIKE CRAPO, I rise today to recognize Idaho State Senate President Pro Tempore Brent Hill's 19 years of service to the State of Idaho.

In 2001, Brent Hill was appointed to lead Idaho's 34th District as a State senator. He quickly developed a reputation as a legislator who led with integrity, civility and kindness—characteristics that earned him reelection to serve nine consecutive terms in the Idaho State Senate.

In the Idaho Senate and throughout the 34th District, Brent was known as a stalwart supporter of small businesses, family values, natural resources, and public education. Brent's expansive knowledge of the Federal and State tax codes from his experience as a CEO,

CPA, and a financial planner allowed him to shape Idaho's tax policy and communicate complex tax legislation to fellow legislators and constituents. He considered tax dollars sacred and took great care in spending them responsibly.

As he climbed the ranks of leadership to become president pro tempore, Brent never forgot the people he served in Madison and Bonneville Counties and always demonstrated true concern for their challenges and concerns. Despite the demands on his time, he continued to serve his community on the board of the Citizens Community Bank and as president of the Rexburg Chamber of Commerce and Rexburg Kiwanis Club. He never stopped advocating on behalf of his constituents, regularly contacting our offices to secure assistance for those needing help with Federal agencies.

Senator Brent Hill leaves behind a legacy of service and integrity, and we wish him and his wife Julie, their children and grandchildren the best as he transitions back to private life. His steadfast leadership will be missed in the Idaho Senate, but we know his community and our State will continue to be blessed by his influence for years to come.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN PAUL CHRISTENSEN

• Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, we rise to congratulate John Paul Christensen on his lifetime of service to the State of Utah and Sanpete County and most recently his service as mayor of Mayfield, UT. John's service also includes a career in law enforcement, as an emergency medical responder and as a city councilman.

As a sixth-generation native of Sanpete County, John has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community. By virtue of his stewardship as mayor, the people of Mayfield have John to thank for dramatic improvements to the city's infrastructure, including its culinary water and drainage systems, streets, roadways, cemetery, and Mayfield Park. Mayor Christensen's accomplishments are made possible in large part by the industrious community of volunteers and spirit of friendship that Mayfield boasts.

The residents of Mayfield know John as a man of great character and compassion. In law enforcement and as an emergency medical responder, the community trusted John with protecting their lives and livelihoods, an often thankless duty that requires mental fortitude and dedication to serving the greater good. His long tenure in public service is evidence of his success.

Although he is leaving public office, we know that John will continue to serve his community and family with heart. As a devoted husband to Julie, a father of 9, and a grandfather of 19, John's legacy and example will endure. The great people of Mayfield, Sanpete

County, and our fellow Americans ought to look to John's commitment to public safety, duty, and service with gratitude.

Thank you, John.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RALPH OKERLUND

● Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, we wish to congratulate State Senator Ralph Okerlund on a remarkable career dedicated to the relentless advancement of prosperity for the great State of Utah. For the many Utahns lucky enough to know him personally—from the hills of Monroe to the halls of the State legislature—it is no surprise that Ralph has chosen to spend more time with his loving family following a consequential tenure in public life. Even for the many Utahns to whom Ralph is still unknown, his influence on civic life through his statewide legislative achievements is significant and enduring.

Senator Okerlund's success can be measured in tangible improvements in his district and across the State. His legislative efforts to facilitate investment in Utah's infrastructure projects, with tax credit incentives and coordination with the State energy and economic development offices, have brought billions of dollars to Utah—a massive boon to the State's economy and its rural counties. In addition, his efforts through the legislative appropriations process delivered Snow College a new building and higher pay for its employees. As a member of the legislative leadership on Capitol Hill, Senator Okerlund kept his commitment to allocate tax dollars wisely and effectively.

Senator Okerlund's success can also be measured by his family and by his fortitude. His professional journey began as a teacher, with degrees from Dixie College and the University of Utah. Ralph then returned to Monroe to help run his family farm and to be closer to his father, whose injury compelled his return. Okerlund would acquire and later sell the dairy but ran the farm for years until his election to the Monroe City Council. Apace with his subsequent ascensions to the mayor's office, Sevier County commission, State senate, and ultimately senate majority leader, is his family of children and grandchildren beside him, including his beloved wife Cindy, who call Monroe home. Ralph has persisted through hardship with the support of his family.

A tireless champion for rural Utah, Senator Okerlund has represented the unique challenges and opportunities facing farmers, ranchers, and rural folks at the State and national level as president of the Council of State Governments Western Association. In this role, he represented Utah's interests among neighboring States with competing ideas on how to manage critical issues like regional energy and land management. His successes in these efforts is undoubtedly owed to his deep

understanding of the issues as a man raised in Monroe.

Few can boast the wealth of personal and professional experiences amassed by Ralph Okerlund in his long and distinguished career—from dairyman to senate majority leader—but every Utahn can admire and follow his commitment to service. His record in government is not marked by expedience but, rather, by a willingness to rise to the occasion and answer the call of his neighbors and friends who seek his reliable judgement and sound leadership. Ralph Okerlund has led for 36 years as an elected official and will continue to serve his family, his friends, and his community with grace and humility.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 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 bills, without amendment:

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 7995. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1830.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1830) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 7995. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### 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-5997. 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 "Child Nutrition Programs: Rescission of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities: Notice of Vacatur" (RIN0584-AE84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 02, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5998. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sethoxydim; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10016-23-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5999. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adipic acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10015-57-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6000. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of DFARS Clauses Related to Taxes Applied to Foreign Contracts in Afghanistan" (RIN0750-AL11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6001. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of DFARS Provision and Clause on Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus" (RIN0750-AK89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6002. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restriction on the Acquisition of Tantalum" (RIN0750-AK94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6003. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled “Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Threshold” (RIN0750-AK76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6004. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Repeal of DFARS Provision ‘Alternate Preservation, Packaging, and Packing’” (RIN0750-AK59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6005. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Repeal of DFARS Clause ‘Substitutions for Military or Federal Specifications and Standards’” (RIN0750-AK60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6006. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Treatment of Certain Items as Commercial Items” (RIN0750-AK66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6007. 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 13851 of November 27, 2018, with respect to Nicaragua; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6008. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Management’s Discussion and Analysis, Selected Financial Data, and Supplementary Financial Information” (RIN3235-AM28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6009. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rhode Island; Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference” (FRL No. 10015-22-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6010. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Chemical Data Reporting; Extension of the 2020 Submission Period” (FRL No. 10016-96-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6011. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “South Carolina: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions” (FRL No. 10016-11-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6012. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA Section 108(b) for Facilities in the Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Industry; the Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing Industry; and the Chemical Manufacturing Industry” (FRL No. 10017-87-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6013. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-2.B)” (FRL No. 10015-16-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6014. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” (RIN1210-AB98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6015. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” ((RIN1545-BP97) (TD 9931)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6016. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Modernizing and Clarifying the Physician Self-Referral Regulations (CMS-1720-F)” (RIN0938-AT64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6017. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s annual report for calendar year 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6018. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0101 - 2020-0103); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6019. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0091 - 2020-0100); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6020. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Transparency in Coverage” (RIN1210-AB93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6021. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6022. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6023. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6024. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report for the six-month period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6025. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6026. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6027. A communication from the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6028. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6029. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6030. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6031. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6032. 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 “Implementation of the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008” (RIN1117-AB20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6033. 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 "Implementation of the Combat Metamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005; Retail Sales; Notice of Transfers Following Importation or Exportation" (RIN1117-AB05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6034. A communication from the Executive Director, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Museum's 2019 annual report and financial audit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6035. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a request for additional funding as a part of a COVID-19 relief bill; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-261. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

Whereas, Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Chairman of the United States House Committee on Natural Resources has unveiled legislation entitled the "Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020" with the intent to include ocean impacts of climate change in the discussions of methods to address climate change mitigation; and

Whereas, in an effort to restore coastal ecosystems, strengthen marine mammal conservation, reduce carbon emissions from shipping vessels, improve international ocean governance, and pursue other ocean-related solutions to the climate change crisis, the legislation seeks to end the federal offshore oil-leasing program; and

Whereas, although these pursuits sound laudable, it is important to remember that the Louisiana oil and gas industry supports nearly two hundred and fifty thousand jobs inside the state of Louisiana and more in adjoining states, it accounts for fourteen percent of the state's tax revenue, and supplies \$73 billion of the state's gross domestic product; and

Whereas, an analysis has found that such a proposal, if enacted, would cause the loss of nearly one million jobs nationwide in the first twelve to twenty-four months, forty-eight thousand of which are located here in Louisiana; and

Whereas, this proposal would significantly reduce our domestic energy production, making our nation more dependent on less reliable, less safe foreign sources for energy produced under weaker environmental standards and a higher carbon footprint; and

Whereas, with energy demand expected to continue to rise until at least 2040, Louisiana currently produces nearly twenty percent of our nation's energy, refines approximately forty-five percent of the total United States petroleum, and processes fifty-one percent of the nation's natural gas; and

Whereas, while meeting this demand year after year, Louisiana energy producers are at

the forefront of carbon emissions reduction technology development like carbon capture and storage that can capture ninety percent of carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and

Whereas, in addition, the offshore oil and gas industry in the United States operates under some of the most stringent environmental rules in the world and its infrastructure also supports some of the most abundant fish habitat providing fishing opportunities that have made Louisiana the "Sportsman's Paradise"; and

Whereas, protecting leasing and production in the Outer Continental Shelf will help combat climate change by helping our state combat coastal land loss and sustain oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico critical to energy innovations needed to reduce carbon emissions; and

Whereas, Louisiana and its local economies, especially communities reliant on energy development and production, have felt an outsized impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to face a slower recovery than many other states because of our large service sector employment; and

Whereas, Louisiana already faces major budget shortfalls that will impact schools, emergency services, and other essential services; and

Whereas, under the provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Security Act, in 2019 alone energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf generated over \$155 million to the state of Louisiana used for coastal restoration and hurricane preparedness; and

Whereas, ensuring access to available leasing acreage on the Outer Continental Shelf will protect offshore energy production as an essential part of our state's budget when our state and local governments need it the most; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

POM-262. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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Whereas, in an effort to restore coastal ecosystems, strengthen marine mammal conservation, reduce carbon emissions from shipping vessels, improve international ocean governance, and pursue other ocean-related solutions to the climate change crisis, the legislation seeks to end the federal offshore oil-leasing program; and

Whereas, although these pursuits sound laudable, it is important to remember that

the Louisiana oil and gas industry supports nearly two hundred and fifty thousand jobs inside the state of Louisiana and more in adjoining states, it accounts for fourteen percent of the state's tax revenue, and supplies \$73 billion of the state's gross domestic product; and

Whereas, an analysis has found that such a proposal, if enacted, would cause the loss of nearly one million jobs nationwide in the first twelve to twenty-four months, forty-eight thousand of which are located here in Louisiana; and

Whereas, this proposal would significantly reduce our domestic energy production, making our nation more dependent on less reliable, less safe foreign sources for energy produced under weaker environmental standards and a higher carbon footprint; and

Whereas, with energy demand expected to continue to rise until at least 2040, Louisiana currently produces nearly twenty percent of our nation's energy, refines approximately forty-five percent of the total United States petroleum, and processes fifty-one percent of the nation's natural gas; and

Whereas, while meeting this demand year after year, Louisiana energy producers are at the forefront of carbon emissions reduction technology development like carbon capture and storage that can capture ninety percent of carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and

Whereas, in addition, the offshore oil and gas industry in the United States operates under some of the most stringent environmental rules in the world and its infrastructure also supports some of the most abundant fish habitat providing fishing opportunities that have made Louisiana the "Sportsman's Paradise"; and

Whereas, protecting leasing and production in the Outer Continental Shelf will help combat climate change by helping our state combat coastal land loss and sustain oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico critical to energy innovations needed to reduce carbon emissions; and

Whereas, Louisiana and its local economies, especially communities reliant on energy development and production, have felt an outsized impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to face a slower recovery than many other states because of our large service sector employment; and

Whereas, Louisiana already faces major budget shortfalls that will impact schools, emergency services, and other essential services; and

Whereas, under the provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Security Act, in 2019 alone energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf generated over \$155 million to the state of Louisiana used for coastal restoration and hurricane preparedness; and

Whereas, ensuring access to available leasing acreage on the Outer Continental Shelf will protect offshore energy production as an essential part of our state's budget when our state and local governments need it the most; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.



## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BLUNT, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 959. A bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BLUNT, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

H.R. 2420. An act to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Marine Corps nomination of Brig. Gen. Austin E. Renforth, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Guy M. Jones, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Michael T. Plehn, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Jeffrey W. Hughes, to be Vice Admiral.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Cobb and ending with Brig. Gen. Darrin E. Slaten, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Matthew D. Dinmore and ending with Brig. Gen. Mark A. Weber, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Sandra L. Best and ending with Brig. Gen. Brett A. Wyrick, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. James R. Camp and ending with Brig. Gen. Torrence W. Saxe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Tara D. McKennie, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Matthew A. Barker and ending with Col. Bryony A. Terrell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Jeffrey R. Alexander and ending with Col. Rick L. Mutchler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. John H. Bondhus and ending with Col. Peter L. Zalewski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Air Force nomination of Col. Denise M. Donnell, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Anthony D. Stratton, to be Brigadier General.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the ex-

pense 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.

Air Force nomination of Michael G. King, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jeffrey Donald Adling and ending with Christopher D. Zaremski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Chikaodi H. Akalaonu and ending with Tabatha R. Zellhart, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brian C. Adkins and ending with Scott C. Zetterstrom, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jason W. Abshire and ending with Brian P. Yoder, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Priscilla M. Adams and ending with Isaac C. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Air Force nomination of Miriam A. Krieger, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jean P. Peltier and ending with Tara L. Villena, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Army nomination of John M. Tokish, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Mark Y. Lee, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Andrew C. Sinelli, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Phillip J. Armstrong, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Tony D. Nguyen, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Matthew B. Harrison, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Michael S. Scioletti, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Brandon M. Crisp, to be Second Lieutenant.

Marine Corps nomination of William J. Warkentin, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Jared L. Reddinger, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nominations beginning with Raul T. Acevedo and ending with Sheu O. Yusuf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 20, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Branden J. Albrecht and ending with Brandy L. Zehr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 20, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Mark E. Beaudet and ending with Zachary B. Zumwalt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 20, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher L. Adcock and ending with Michael J. Yoshihara, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 20, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Jason E. Hayes and ending with Christopher S. Walton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 20, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeffrey B. Aday and ending with Jessica L. Zimmer-

man, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 26, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with John A. O. Abordo and ending with True Xiong, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 26, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Joshua M. Adams and ending with Kent J. D. Wong, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 26, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Cassandra E. Abbott and ending with James J. Yoon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 26, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Ezindu U. Ananti and ending with Eric C. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 26, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael A. Ajao and ending with Bryan E. Wooldridge, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Natalie R. Bakan and ending with Christopher E. Verzosa, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with James P. Adwell and ending with Jessica N. Woody, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Bryan C. Barletto and ending with David W. Warning, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Colleen L. Abuzeid and ending with Robyn V. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nomination of Brian B. Toupin, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Jennifer L. Rhinehart, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Brandon E. Clark, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher L. Allen and ending with Edward P. Windas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Raynard Allen and ending with Marlin Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with James G. Angerman and ending with Joseph M. Zukowsky, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew B. Alexander and ending with Angelina R. Woodburn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Derek S. Bernsen and ending with William J. Reimer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Deena R. Abt and ending with Todd W. Wish, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Patrick R. Adams and ending with David M. Yost, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Joshua D. Allen and ending with Shawn F. Zentner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Oluwaseun O. O. Abegunde and ending with Peter J. Zollweg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Bekim F. Austin and ending with Henry A. Villatoro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert T. Augustine and ending with Alexander J. Wunderlich, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Gavin L. Kurey and ending with Anthony J. Wich, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher S. Fife II and ending with Wayne M. Zanni, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with James F. Adams and ending with Mary C. Walsh, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with David F. Boring and ending with Jacqueline Zimny, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Neha U. Athavale and ending with Eric T. Wilmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Malikul A. Aziz and ending with Scott H. Zinn II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Luis E. Banchs and ending with Matthew K. Wittkopp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with George W. Acfalle and ending with Emma S. Yearby, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2020.

Space Force nominations beginning with Israel Abensur and ending with Devin Lee Zufelt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2020.

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

\*Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2025.

\*Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

\*Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2021.

\*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.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 4954. A bill to amend the CARES Act to simplify the procedure for applying for forgiveness for certain loans made under the Paycheck Protection Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4955. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs otherwise chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4956. A bill to create a Council on Emergency Response Protocols to ensure the establishment of accessible, developmentally appropriate, culturally aware, and trauma-informed emergency response protocols in public schools, early childcare and education settings, and institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4957. A bill to provide for an emergency increase in Federal funding to State Medicaid programs for expenditures on home and community-based services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 4958. A bill to provide for a vaccine safety public awareness campaign; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4959. A bill to increase transparency and access to group health plan and health insurance issuer reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED:

S. 4960. A bill to extend of period for adjustment of status for certain Liberian nationals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4961. A bill to improve the efficiency and reliability of rail transportation by reforming the Surface Transportation Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 4962. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize a grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras and securely storing and maintaining recorded data for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 4963. A bill to establish a bipartisan Presidential Commission to study the establishment of a National Museum of the American People to tell the story about the making of the American People, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 4964. A bill to establish a Next Generation Entrepreneurship Corps program within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4965. A bill to regulate the posting of personal information of government officials on the internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 788. A resolution recognizing the 20th Anniversary for the Jed Foundation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 789. A resolution urging the Government of Thailand to protect and uphold democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 790. A resolution supporting efforts to strengthen protection, assistance, and solutions for Venezuelan women and children; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 791. A resolution designating November 2020 as "National College Application Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 792. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Chad Michael Frein v. Dianne Feinstein; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. JONES, Mr. SHELBY, and Mrs. LOEFFLER):

S. Res. 793. A resolution remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Con. Res. 50. A concurrent resolution urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 914

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 914, a bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System

Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establishment of a National Water Center, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1363

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1363, a bill to authorize an AI Center of Excellence within the General Services Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1443

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1443, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 1652

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1652, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 2257

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2257, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2907

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2907, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders under the Medicare program.

S. 3067

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3067, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3291

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3291, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand tax credit education and training for small businesses that engage in research and development, and for other purposes.

S. 3451

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3451, a bill 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.

S. 3723

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3723, a bill to provide services to victims of sexual abuse who are incarcerated, and for other purposes.

S. 3753

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

S. 3814

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3814, a bill to establish a loan program for businesses affected by COVID-19 and to extend the loan forgiveness period for paycheck protection program loans made to the hardest hit businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 4086

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cospon-

sors of S. 4086, a bill amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the definition of Vietnam era for purposes of the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 4150

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4150, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus.

S. 4162

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4162, a bill to provide certainty for airport funding.

S. 4326

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4326, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to honor the 100th anniversary of completion of coinage of the "Morgan Dollar" and the 100th anniversary of commencement of coinage of the "Peace Dollar", and for other purposes.

S. 4433

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4433, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 4461

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4461, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 4494

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4494, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period with respect to which amounts under the Coronavirus Relief Fund may be expended.

S. 4497

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4497, a bill to temporarily suspend duties on imports of articles needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 4594

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4594, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans.

S. 4613

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4613, a bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to prevent certain automated calls and to require notice of the availability of contact lens prescriptions to patients, and for other purposes.

S. 4657

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 4657, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4663

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4663, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

S. 4757

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4757, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 4840

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4840, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the inclusion of certain audio-only diagnoses in the determination of risk adjustment for Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 4858

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4858, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the Honoring Amer-

ica's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, to make certain enhancements to grants awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and contracts between the Secretary and entities that provide services to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4867

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4867, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 4907

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4907, a bill to nullify Executive Order 13957, entitled "Creating Schedule F In The Excepted Service".

S. 4918

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4918, a bill to transfer antitrust enforcement functions from the Federal Trade Commission to the Department of Justice, and for other purposes.

S. 4935

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4935, a bill to provide continued assistance to unemployed workers.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 778

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 778, a resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 15, 2020.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 788—RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE JED FOUNDATION

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following

resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 788

Whereas, 20 years ago, Donna and Phillip Satow set out to launch a blueprint for suicide prevention with the founding of the Jed Foundation;

Whereas Donna and Phillip tragically lost their son, Jed, 2 years earlier to suicide;

Whereas they recognized the need for a uniform model for suicide prevention on college and university campuses and the need to address the stigma and secrecy associated with mental health in these communities;

Whereas campus prevention programs at the time were limited in scope and priority, and the Satows are to be commended for their dedication to mental health and creating the Jed Foundation, a national non-profit organization, to surmount those hurdles;

Whereas, through their passion, vision, and dedication to the Jed Foundation, the Satows have worked tirelessly to transform the way teen and young adult mental health is understood and supported;

Whereas, due to the commitment and vision of the Satows, the Jed Foundation is a recognized leader in transforming policies, programs, and systems to protect the mental and emotional health of, and prevent suicide for, teens and young adults;

Whereas, through the efforts of the Satows, the Jed Foundation created JED Campus, a program which has helped implement a comprehensive approach to mental health for over 300 colleges and universities representing nearly 3,700,000 students, strengthening their mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention programs;

Whereas, in the past 20 years, the Jed Foundation has provided programs and resources that have helped more than 3,000 high schools, colleges, and universities strengthen their mental health safety nets for teens and young adults throughout the Nation;

Whereas the Jed Foundation has educated over 10,000 high school, college, university, and other mental health professionals in suicide prevention through various educational initiatives;

Whereas the Jed Foundation has partnered with over 1,600 college and universities to utilize the Foundation's ULifeline.org online resource center to provide students with information about mental health and how to seek help if they are struggling;

Whereas the Jed Foundation and the Satow's vision have continued to address the mental health needs of diverse communities by ensuring that mental health resources are culturally responsive and providing key resources in Spanish for Latinx teens, young adults, and their families;

Whereas the Jed Foundation and the Satow's dedication to mental health has led to in-depth research to help schools and communities more effectively understand and support the mental health of LGBTQ+ teens and young adults;

Whereas the Jed Foundation has created a national campaign, Seize the Awkward, to encourage teens and young adults to start a conversation with a friend who may be struggling with mental health issues;

Whereas the Jed Foundation's anonymous mental health self-evaluator has been used by students over 400,000 times to assess their symptoms and receive customized information about how to seek help for their mental health needs;

Whereas the Jed Foundation works toward a future where every high school, college, and university has a comprehensive mental health system that supports mental and

emotional health and reduces the risk of substance misuse and suicide for teens and young adults;

Whereas the Jed Foundation, through the Satow's vision and commitment, works to equip all teens and young adults with the ability to navigate mental health challenges, to seek and give help, and to emotionally prepare them to enter adulthood and fulfill their potential; and

Whereas the Jed Foundation works to have mental health recognized as part of general health and wellness, and to reduce the shame, secrecy, or prejudice often associated with mental health: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Jed Foundation;

(2) commends Donna and Phillip Satow for their vision, continued commitment, and leadership; and

(3) applauds the Jed Foundation for being a leading organization promoting the well-being of students, families, and schools and paving the way for more young people to find the resources and the support they need.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 789—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND TO PROTECT AND UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RULE OF LAW, AND RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 789

Whereas the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America first established relations in 1818 and entered into the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833, formalizing diplomatic relations;

Whereas Thailand was the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and remains a steadfast friend of the United States with shared values of democracy, rule of law, universal human rights, and a free market;

Whereas the United States and Thailand in 1954 signed the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (Manila Pact), pledging to “strengthen the fabric of peace and freedom and to uphold the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law”;

Whereas, through the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations of 1966, along with a diverse and growing trading relationship, the United States and Thailand have developed strong economic ties;

Whereas the United States recognizes Thailand as a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and host of the 35th ASEAN Summit in 2019, which reaffirmed that body's commitment to “a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress”;

Whereas Thailand was designated a major non-NATO ally in 2003, and is one of the strongest security partners of the United States, a relationship that was recognized and expanded upon in the United States-Thailand Joint Vision Statement for the Thai-United States Defense Alliance in 2012;

Whereas the Governments of Thailand and the United States hold numerous joint military exercises, including Cobra Gold, the

largest annual multinational military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region, which is hosted by Thailand;

Whereas the Government of Thailand continues to be a partner on humanitarian and refugee assistance, including support from U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Air Field for multinational relief efforts following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2015 Nepal earthquake;

Whereas Thailand ended absolute monarchy and transitioned to a constitutional monarchy in 1932, and since then has revised its constitution seventeen times, including a 1997 constitution that enshrined democratically elected representatives in a bicameral national assembly and the prime minister as head of government, and a 2007 constitution that largely retained that structure;

Whereas cycles of coups and military rule have been a recurring feature of governance in Thailand for almost a century;

Whereas the Royal Thai military conducted a coup in 2014, abolished the 2007 constitution, declared martial law, and replaced the civilian government with a junta under the leadership of Army Commander Prayuth Chan-ocha;

Whereas the junta's National Council for Peace and Order drafted a new constitution which was promulgated in 2017, and served to erode Thailand's democracy and constitutional protection of rights;

Whereas, in March 2019, Thailand held elections that several independent monitoring groups declared as deeply flawed and heavily tilted to favor the military junta, whose party, headed by Prayuth, formed a new government with the support of the military-appointed and unelected Senate;

Whereas, in January 2020, the opposition political party Future Forward was dissolved and banned on order of the Constitutional Court following a flawed legal process premised on spurious charges;

Whereas the Government of Thailand has failed to properly investigate issues with respect to violent assaults against democracy activists and government critics within Thailand, as well as enforced disappearances and killings of exiled Thai political dissidents across Asia;

Whereas, since February 2020, tens of thousands of protesters across Thailand, largely students and youth, have peacefully called for democratically elected government, constitutional reform, and respect for human rights;

Whereas the Government of Thailand has responded to these peaceful protests with repressive measures, including intimidation tactics, surveillance, harassment, arrests, violence and imprisonment;

Whereas Prayuth declared a state of emergency on October 15, 2020, and characterized the growing pro-democracy protests as threats to national security and public safety;

Whereas more than 170 peaceful protesters have been arrested since February 2020, many of them charged with serious crimes, including sedition, that carry potentially long prison sentences; and

Whereas UNICEF has expressed concern about the potential harm that children face amidst the ongoing protests in Thailand and called on all parties to uphold children and young people's right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and to protect them from all forms of violence and intimidation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the strong relationship between the United States and Thailand based on shared democratic values and strategic interests;

(2) stands in solidarity with the people of Thailand in their quest for a democratically

elected government, political reforms, long-term peace, and respect for established international human rights standards;

(3) urges the Government of Thailand to protect and uphold democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, as well as immediately and unconditionally release political activists and refrain from harassing, intimidating, or persecuting those engaged in peaceful protests, with particular care for the rights and well-being of children and students;

(4) calls on the United States Government to support the right of the people of Thailand to peacefully and democratically determine their future; and

(5) unequivocally states that a military coup to resolve the current political crisis would be counterproductive and risk further undermining bilateral relations between the United States and Thailand.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 790—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE, AND SOLUTIONS FOR VENEZUELAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 790

Whereas over 5,400,000 Venezuelans have been displaced across Latin America and the Caribbean—the world's second largest displacement crisis—and at least 7,000,000 people inside Venezuela are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the country's ongoing political and economic crisis;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, given the country's weak health infrastructure, and posing particular risks for Venezuelan refugees and migrants such as eviction, loss of livelihoods, border closures and other travel restrictions, lack of access to health care for those without documentation, and gender-based violence;

Whereas it is well-recognized that displacement crises—

(1) exacerbate pre-existing violence against women and girls;

(2) interrupt children's education and increase their exposure to violence and exploitation;

(3) cause major stress and trauma on individuals and families that can have profound effects on mental health and result in significant needs for psychological and social support; and

(4) disrupt family and community connections that mitigate against such violence and trauma;

Whereas, between 2015 and 2016, maternal mortality rates in Venezuela increased by 65 percent and infant mortality within the first week of life increased by 53 percent, and the dire state of Venezuela's public health system has compelled women to flee the country in order to give birth;

Whereas one-third of Venezuelan households are food insecure, with the greatest risk of adverse nutritional impacts on children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly, according to the World Food Program;

Whereas the growing prevalence of criminal violence, especially intimate partner violence, and human trafficking, endemic corruption, and impunity in Venezuela has contributed to a significant increase in femicides;

Whereas Venezuelan women and girls report an increase in pregnancies of adolescent girls over the past 2 years, including many resulting from sexual violence and coercion;

Whereas indigenous women and girls in Venezuela's border communities face heightened risks of violence as a result of extreme poverty, discrimination, and the encroachment of extractive mining industries on their land;

Whereas women and girls fleeing Venezuela face grave threats of sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking by armed groups operating in border regions, such as the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), and these threats have grown since COVID-related border closures have forced asylum seekers into unofficial border crossing routes ("trochas");

Whereas the trafficking of Venezuelan women and children is linked to organized crime and armed groups, which often kidnap girls into trafficking networks in other countries and, in addition, forcibly recruit boys and young men;

Whereas, despite the generous policies of host countries, less than half of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children were attending school prior to COVID-related closures, because of lack of documentation to enroll, limited space in public schools, and lack of resources to pay fees;

Whereas governments throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have participated in a series of technical meetings to coordinate a regional strategy for the protection and regularization of Venezuelan refugees and migrants—known as the "Quito Process"—and issued a joint declaration in November 2019 that agreed to strengthen measures against human trafficking, gender-based violence, discrimination, and xenophobia, and to establish a regional protection protocol for refugee and migrant children and adolescents;

Whereas the United States has committed to strengthen international protection of women and children through the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, which aims to "promote the protection of women and girls' human rights; access to humanitarian assistance; and safety from violence, abuse, and exploitation around the world", as well as through the U.S. Government Strategy on Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity; and

Whereas the international community has prioritized addressing the issue of gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts by establishing a Safe from the Start initiative, implemented by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses grave concern for the massive and growing humanitarian needs of Venezuelans, including over 5,400,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with particular concern for the impact of the displacement crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic on women and children;

(2) recognizes the many communities across Latin America and the Caribbean that continue to generously receive and host Venezuelan refugees and migrants while also fighting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic;

(3) appreciates participation in the Quito Process by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, and encourages implementation of their commitments to strengthen national processes of documentation and registration and to bolster protections for Venezuelan refugees and migrants subject to gender-based violence, human trafficking, and xenophobia;

(4) encourages governments hosting Venezuelan refugees and migrants, as well as international and nongovernmental organizations providing assistance, to ensure that shelter, health care, food assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, and other basic services are accessible to women and children;

(5) calls on the international community, including both humanitarian and development actors, to focus greater attention and resources to address the violence, abuse, and exploitation suffered by Venezuelan women and children, including by disaggregating data by sex and age in needs assessments and program reporting; and

(6) supports increasing United States diplomatic initiatives and humanitarian assistance to strengthen protections for Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their host communities, with an emphasis on the protection of women and children.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 791—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2020 AS "NATIONAL COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH"

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 791

Whereas equality of opportunity for all people is one of the noblest aspirations of the United States;

Whereas data on the benefits of higher education demonstrate that, in spite of ongoing barriers to access and student success, colleges and universities can still provide pathways to economic opportunity;

Whereas the United States built a thriving middle class by funding colleges and universities to provide avenues to individual economic opportunity and shared economic growth;

Whereas higher education enhances the economic mobility of individuals, which is evidenced by—

(1) a finding by the Brookings Institute that the median lifetime earnings of holders of an associate degree are uniformly greater than the median lifetime earnings of holders of solely a high school diploma; and

(2) a finding by the Pew Economic Mobility Project that, for an individual born in the lowest income quintile, obtaining a 4-year degree or a higher degree is associated with—

(A) an approximately 70 percent difference in the probability of that individual earning an income outside the lowest income quintile; and

(B) a threefold difference in the probability of that individual going on to earn an income in the highest income quintile;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that—

(1) the unemployment rate of high school graduates in 2019 who did not immediately matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester was 18.2 percent, which is significantly higher than the overall unemployment rate of the United States;

(2) approximately 34 percent of high school graduates in 2019 did not immediately matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester, which represents a decline from the prior year in the rate of immediate matriculation of new high school graduates to an institution of higher education;

(3) the decline described in paragraph (2) was most notable among African American

high school graduates, who faced a 20 percent decline from the prior year in immediate matriculation to an institution of higher education; and

(4) the unemployment rate of adults with a bachelor's degree and the unemployment rate of adults whose highest credential is a high school diploma differ by 20 percentage points, a gap that has grown larger as a result of COVID-19;

Whereas the National Student Clearinghouse reports that undergraduate enrollment in colleges and universities is declining precipitously in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for nontraditional students;

Whereas the complexity of financial aid systems and rising college costs can serve as additional deterrents or barriers for students and families as they assess the viability of higher education programs as a postsecondary option;

Whereas many students struggle to identify and compare postsecondary options due to—

(1) difficulties accessing school counseling services, which is evidenced by an estimation of the American School Counselor Association that the student-to-counselor ratio in the United States is 430 to 1;

(2) an absence of reliable programmatic and institutional outcome data; and

(3) a lack of comparable and understandable college financial aid offers;

Whereas, in addition to expanding outreach and support to recent high school graduates, colleges and universities must also expand outreach and support to all undergraduate students;

Whereas the Digest of Education Statistics for 2019 of the National Center for Education Statistics and the 2015-16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey found that, of undergraduate students in the United States—

(1) approximately 27 percent are older than 25 years of age;

(2) 38 percent are enrolled part-time;

(3) 24 percent are parents; and

(4) 86 percent live off-campus;

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics highlights that completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is one of the best predictors of immediate college enrollment, as high school seniors who complete the form are 84 percent more likely to begin postsecondary education in the fall following high school graduation;

Whereas applications for State-based financial aid are available in many States for students who do not qualify for Federal student aid; and

Whereas the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities, families, and educational systems across the United States underscores and reinforces the value of ensuring that all individuals, including students enrolled in high school and working adults—

(1) understand their postsecondary options;

(2) understand college financing opportunities; and

(3) have support to navigate the college application and financial aid processes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2020 as "National College Application Month";

(2) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) evaluate options for pursuing higher education;

(B) submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or an appropriate application for State-based financial aid in order to receive college financing opportunities; and

(C) support every student, regardless of the background, age, or resources of the student,



in obtaining the skills and knowledge needed to thrive;

(3) supports efforts to better assist low-income and first-generation college students throughout the financial aid and college application process;

(4) urges public officials, educators, parents, students, and communities in the United States to observe National College Application Month with appropriate activities and programs designed to encourage students to consider, research, and apply to college and for financial aid; and

(5) commends teachers, counselors, mentors, and parents who support students throughout the college application process, as well as the organizations and institutions partnering to eliminate barriers to higher education.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 792—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF CHAD MICHAEL FREIN V. DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 792

Whereas, Senator Dianne Feinstein has been named as a defendant in the case of *Chad Michael Frein v. Dianne Feinstein*, Civil Action No. 20-CV-0252-LJV, currently pending in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Members of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Feinstein in the case of *Chad Michael Frein v. Dianne Feinstein*.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing representation by the Senate Legal Counsel and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a civil action pending in New York federal court against Senator FEINSTEIN. In this lawsuit, the pro se plaintiff asserts a jumble of confusing allegations claiming that local government officials in California have assaulted him and taken his property. He appears to sue Senator FEINSTEIN because he wrote to her for assistance, and she did not take sufficient action to satisfy plaintiff. Plaintiff's suit is subject to dismissal on jurisdictional grounds and failure to state a claim. This resolution would authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to represent Senator FEINSTEIN in order to seek dismissal of this suit.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 793—REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA AND COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. JONES, Mr. SHELBY, and Mrs. LOEFFLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 793

Whereas December 6, 2020, the 1-year anniversary of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this preamble as the "terrorist attack"), is a day of commemoration for those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, during the terrorist attack, including—

(1) Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, Alabama;

(2) Aircrewman Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham of St. Petersburg, Florida; and

(3) Aircrewman Third Class Cameron Scott Walters of Richmond Hill, Georgia;

Whereas the 3 servicemembers who died in the terrorist attack were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart;

Whereas the terrorist who committed the terrorist attack was a Saudi Arabian foreign military student who had been radicalized and established contacts with Al Qaeda operatives prior to attending flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola security forces and Escambia County, Florida, law enforcement officers took decisive action to end the terrorist attack and have rightly earned the praises and awards bestowed upon them;

Whereas 2 civilians were awarded the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Medal for Valor for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 7 individuals were awarded the Purple Heart, or the law enforcement equivalent, for injuries sustained during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 9 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 law enforcement officers were awarded the Medal of Valor for their actions taken during the terrorist attack; and

Whereas December 6, 2020, marks 1 year since the lives of 3 military personnel were tragically cut short by the egregious act of terrorism at Naval Air Station Pensacola: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this resolution as the "terrorist attack");

(2) commemorates in sorrow the servicemembers and civilians who lost their lives, or who were injured, and the harm caused to the surrounding community, as a result of the terrorist attack;

(3) remembers Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Aircrewman Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham, and Aircrewman Third Class Cameron Scott Walters, who were killed in the terrorist attack;

(4) expresses gratitude for the heroic actions that the civilians, uniformed personnel, and law enforcement performed in the aftermath of the terrorist attack;

(5) lauds the decision to give medals and awards to the law enforcement officers, uniformed servicemembers, and civilians who responded heroically on the morning of December 6, 2019; and

(6) commends the efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense to enhance security at military installations to ensure that the tragedy represented by the terrorist attack is never repeated.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50—URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING, AND TRANSFORMATION

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. CON. RES. 50

Whereas the first ship carrying enslaved Africans to what is now known as the United States of America arrived in 1619;

Whereas that event 400 years ago was significant not only because it ushered in the institution of chattel slavery of African Americans, but also because it facilitated the systematic oppression of all people of color that has been a devastating and insufficiently understood and acknowledged aspect of our Nation's history over those past 400 years, and that has left a legacy of that oppression that haunts our Nation to this day;

Whereas the institution of chattel slavery in the United States subjugated African Americans for nearly 250 years, fractured our Nation, and made a mockery of its founding principle that "all men are created equal";

Whereas the signing of the Constitution of the United States failed to end slavery and oppressions against African Americans and other people of color, thus embedding in society the belief in the myth of a hierarchy of human value based on superficial physical characteristics such as skin color and facial features, and resulting in purposeful and persistent racial inequities in education, health care, employment, Social Security and veteran benefits, land ownership, financial assistance, food security, wages, voting rights, and the justice system;

Whereas that oppression denied opportunity and mobility to African Americans and other people of color within the United States, resulting in stolen labor worth billions of dollars while ultimately forestalling landmark contributions that African Americans and other people of color would make in science, arts, commerce, and public service;

Whereas Reconstruction represented a significant but constrained moment of advances for Black rights as epitomized by the Freedman's Bureau, which negotiated labor contracts for ex-enslaved people but failed to secure their own land for them;

Whereas the brutal overthrow of Reconstruction failed all individuals in the United States by failing to ensure the safety and security of African Americans and by emboldening States and municipalities in both the North and South to enact numerous laws and policies to stymie the socioeconomic mobility and political voice of freed Blacks, thus maintaining their subservience to Whites;

Whereas Reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and other efforts to redress the



grievances of marginalized people were sabotaged, both intentionally and unintentionally, by those in power, thus rendering the accomplishments of those efforts transitory and unsustainable, and further embedding the racial hierarchy in society;

Whereas examples of government actions directed against populations of color (referred to in this resolution as “discriminatory government actions”) include—

(1) the creation of the Federal Housing Administration, which adopted specific policies designed to incentivize residential segregation;

(2) the enactment of legislation creating the Social Security program, for which most African Americans were purposely rendered ineligible during its first 2 decades;

(3) the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly known as the “G.I. Bill of Rights”; 58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), which left administration of its programs to the States, thus enabling blatant discrimination against African American veterans;

(4) the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which allowed labor unions to discriminate based on race;

(5) subprime lending aimed purposefully at families of color;

(6) disenfranchisement of Native Americans, who, until 1924, were denied citizenship on land Native Americans had occupied for millennia;

(7) Federal Indian Boarding School policy during the 19th and 20th centuries, the purpose of which was to “civilize” Native children through methods intended to eradicate Native cultures, traditions, and languages;

(8) land policies toward Indian Tribes, such as the allotment policy, which caused the loss of over 90,000,000 acres of Tribal lands, even though two-thirds of that acreage was guaranteed to Indian Tribes by treaties and other Federal laws, and similar unjustified land grabs from Indian Tribes that occurred regionally throughout the late 1800s and into the termination era in the 1950s and 1960s;

(9) the involuntary removal of Mexicans and United States citizens of Mexican descent through large-scale discriminatory deportation programs in the 1930s and 1950s;

(10) the United States annexation of Puerto Rico, which made Puerto Ricans citizens of the United States without affording them voting rights;

(11) racial discrimination against Latino Americans, which has forced Latino Americans to fight continuously for equal access to employment, housing, health care, financial services, and education;

(12) the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1892 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act”; 22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which effectively halted immigration from China and barred Chinese immigrants from becoming citizens of the United States, and which was the first instance of xenophobic legislation signed into law specifically targeting a specific group of people based on ethnicity;

(13) the treatment of Japanese Americans, despite no evidence of disloyalty, as suspect and traitorous in the very country they helped to build, leading most notably to the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans beginning in 1942;

(14) the conspiracy to overthrow the Kingdom of Hawaii and annex the land of the Kingdom of Hawaii, without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii; and

(15) the United States history of colonialism in the Pacific, which has resulted in economic, health, and educational disparities among other inequities, for people in United States territories, as well as independent nations with which the United States has treaty obligations;

Whereas those discriminatory government actions, among other government policies that have had racially disparate impacts, have disproportionately barred African Americans and other people of color from building wealth, thus limiting potential capital and exacerbating the racial wealth gap;

Whereas research has shown that the persistent racial wealth gap has had a significant negative impact on other racial disparities, such as the achievement gap, disparities in school dropout rates, income gaps, disparities in home ownership rates, health outcome disparities, and disparities in incarceration rates;

Whereas United States civic leaders and foundations have spearheaded critical efforts to advance racial healing, understanding, and transformation within the United States, recognizing that it is in our collective national interest to urgently address the unhealed, entrenched divisions that will severely undermine our democracy if they are allowed to continue to exist;

Whereas many of the most far-reaching victories for racial healing in the United States have been greatly enhanced by the involvement, support, and dedication of individuals from any and all racial groups;

Whereas at the same time, much of the progress toward racial healing and racial equity in the United States has been limited or reversed by our failure to address the root cause of racism, the belief in the myth of a hierarchy of human value based on superficial physical characteristics such as skin color and facial features;

Whereas the United States institution of slavery, as well as other examples enumerated in this resolution, represent intentional and blatant violations of the most basic right of every individual in the United States to a free and decent life;

Whereas the consequences of oppression against people of color have cascaded for centuries, across generations, beyond the era of active enslavement, imperiling for descendants of slaves and other targets of oppression what should have otherwise been the right of every individual in the United States to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas more than 40 countries have reckoned with historical injustice and its aftermath through forming Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to move toward restorative justice and to return dignity to their citizens;

Whereas for 3 decades there has been a growing movement inside and outside Congress to have the Federal Government develop material remedies for the institution of slavery, including through a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans described in H.R. 40, 116th Congress, as introduced on January 3, 2019;

Whereas the formation of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation does not supplant the formation of a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans, but rather complements that effort; and

Whereas contemporary social science, medical science, and the rapidly expanding use of artificial intelligence and social media reveal the costs and potential threats to our democracy if we continue to allow unhealed, entrenched divisions to be ignored and exploited: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) affirms, on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slave ship to the United States, that the Nation owes a long-overdue debt of remembrance to not only those who lived through the egregious injustices enu-

merated in this resolution, but also to their descendants; and

(2) urges the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation to properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress toward—

(A) jettisoning the belief in a hierarchy of human value;

(B) embracing our common humanity; and

(C) permanently eliminating persistent racial inequities.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at a time to be determined, to conduct a hearing on nomination.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nomination.

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

#### THE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills, en bloc: H.R. 2246, H.R. 4279, S. 4409, H.R. 2969, H.R. 3275, H.R. 3847, H.R. 3870, H.R. 4034, H.R. 4200, H.R. 4672, H.R. 4785, H.R. 4975, H.R. 5062, H.R. 5317, S. 4684, H.R. 2454, H.R. 3005, H.R. 3680, H.R. 4725, H.R. 4875, H.R. 4971, H.R. 5307, and H.R. 5954.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the bills, en bloc?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. BLUNT. I ask unanimous consent that the bills, en bloc, be read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

**DEPUTY DONALD WILLIAM DURR,  
CORPORAL ZACH MOAK, AND PA-  
TROLLMAN JAMES WHITE MEMO-  
RIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 2246) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Cherokee Street in Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the “Deputy Donald William Durr, Corporal Zach Moak, and Patrolman James White Memorial Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**MELINDA GENE PICCOTTI POST  
OFFICE**

The bill (H.R. 4279) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the “Melinda Gene Piccotti Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**LAWRENCE M. ‘LARRY’ WALSH SR.  
POST OFFICE**

The bill (S. 4409) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the “Lawrence M. ‘Larry’ Walsh Sr. Post Office” was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4409

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

**SECTION 1. LAWRENCE M. ‘LARRY’ WALSH SR.  
POST OFFICE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the “Lawrence M. ‘Larry’ Walsh Sr. 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 “Lawrence M. ‘Larry’ Walsh Sr. Post Office”.

**ALTHEA MARGARET DAILY MILLS  
POST OFFICE BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 2969) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1401 1st Street North in Winter Haven, Florida, as the “Althea Margaret Daily Mills Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**LANCE CORPORAL ANDY ‘ACE’  
NOWACKI POST OFFICE**

A bill (H.R. 3275) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 Wetmore Avenue in Grand River, Ohio, as the “Lance Corporal Andy ‘Ace’ Nowacki Post Office”

was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**REVEREND CURTIS WEST HARRIS  
POST OFFICE BUILDING**

A bill (H.R. 3847) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 West Poythress Street in Hopewell, Virginia, as the “Reverend Curtis West Harris Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**NORMANDIA MALDONADO POST  
OFFICE BUILDING**

A bill (H.R. 3870) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 511 West 165th Street in New York, New York, as the “Normandia Maldonado Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**JOHN HENRY TURPIN POST  
OFFICE BUILDING**

A bill (H.R. 4034) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 602 Pacific Avenue in Bremerton, Washington, as the “John Henry Turpin Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**SERGEANT DAVID KINTERKNECHT  
POST OFFICE**

A bill (H.R. 4200) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 South 1st Street in Montrose, Colorado, as the “Sergeant David Kinterknecht Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS (SEAL)  
MATTHEW G. AXELSON POST OF-  
FICE BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 4672) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21701 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, California, as the “Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**LANCE CORPORAL RHONALD DAIN  
RAIRDAN POST OFFICE**

The bill (H.R. 4785) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1305 U.S. Highway 90 West in Castroville, Texas, as the “Lance Corporal Rhonald Dain Rairdan Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**DOROTHY BRADEN BRUCE POST  
OFFICE BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 4975) to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 1201 Sycamore Square Drive in Midlothian, Virginia, as the “Dorothy Braden Bruce Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**OFFICER ROBERT GERMAN POST  
OFFICE BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 5062) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9930 Conroy Windermere Road in Windermere, Florida, as the “Officer Robert German Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**DEPUTY SANDEEP SINGH  
DHALIWAL POST OFFICE BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 5317) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 315 Addicks Howell Road in Houston, Texas, as the “Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**ROBERT L. BROWN POST OFFICE**

A bill (S. 4684) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the “Robert L. Brown Post Office” was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4684

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

**SECTION 1. ROBERT L. BROWN POST OFFICE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, shall be known and designated as the “Robert L. Brown 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 “Robert L. Brown Post Office”.

**BEN REIFEL POST OFFICE  
BUILDING**

A bill (H.R. 2454) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 East Sharpfish Street in Rosebud, South Dakota, as the “Ben Reifel Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**RAY CHAVEZ POST OFFICE  
BUILDING**

A bill (H.R. 3005) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13308 Midland Road in Poway, California, as the “Ray Chavez Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**PAULA CROOM ROBINSON AND  
JUDY SPRAY MEMORIAL POST  
OFFICE BUILDING**

A bill (H.R. 3680) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 415 North Main Street in Henning, Tennessee, as the "Paula Croom Robinson and Judy Spray Memorial Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) DALE GOETZ  
MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILD-  
ING**

A bill (H.R. 4725) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8585 Criterion Drive in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "Chaplain (Capt.) Dale Goetz Memorial Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**LANCE CPL. STACY 'ANNIE'  
DRYDEN POST OFFICE**

The bill (H.R. 4875) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2201 E. Maple Street in North Canton, Ohio, as the "Lance Cpl. Stacy 'Annie' Dryden Post Office" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**NORMAN DUNCAN POST OFFICE  
BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 4971) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 East Market Street in Leesburg, Virginia, as the "Norman Duncan Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**POSTMASTER ROBERT INGRAM  
POST OFFICE**

The bill (H.R. 5307) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 Nicol Avenue in Thomasville, Alabama, as the "Postmaster Robert Ingram Post Office" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**HOLLY VETERANS MEMORIAL  
POST OFFICE**

The bill (H.R. 5954) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 West Maple Street in Holly, Michigan, as the "Holly Veterans Memorial Post Office" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**AUTHORIZING THE EVERY WORD  
WE UTTER MONUMENT**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further con-

sideration of H.R. 473 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 473) to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 473) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE  
ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 1830**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 125, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 125) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1830.

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

Mr. BLUNT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 125) was agreed to.

**NATIONAL COLLEGE APPLICATION  
MONTH**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 791 submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 791) designating November 2020 as "National College Application Month".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUNT. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 791) was agreed to.

Mr. BLUNT. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION  
BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL  
IN THE CASE OF CHAD MICHAEL  
FREIN V DIANNE FEINSTEIN**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 792, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 792) to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Chad Michael Frein v Dianne Feinstein.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUNT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 792) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6,  
2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT  
NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA  
AND COMMEMORATING THOSE  
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND  
THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN  
THE LINE OF DUTY**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 793, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 793) remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating

those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUNT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 793) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, December 7; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be

deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Schwartz nomination. Finally, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask that the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 7, 2020, at 3 p.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. BRYAN P. FENTON

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 3, 2020:

##### OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

LANNY ERDOS, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

##### FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

CHRISTOPHER WALLER, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2016.

##### THE JUDICIARY

LIAM P. HARDY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO EXPIRE ON THE DATE PRESCRIBED BY LAW.