House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, on this first full day of a new administration, we offer our heartfelt prayers for the leaders of this country and for the future of our Nation. May they and we humbly ourselves before You and call upon Your name. May they and each of us seek Your face in our midst as we lift up our hearts to You. As a people, we confess the malice of our ways.

Hear us in Your Heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land. Consecrate this House that Your name may abide with us forever. Open Your eyes to us, and may Your ears be attentive to our prayer, for we pray in the strength of Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. McGovern 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF COVID-19

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all Members in the Chamber, as well as Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of more than 400,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 335, PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H.R. 335 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee; that all points of order against consideration of the bill be waived; that the bill be considered as read; that all points of order against provisions in the bill be waived; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CueLLAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear Madam Speaker: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 19, 2021, at 1:10 p.m.:

That the Senate is ready to receive Managers appointed by the House.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1412

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Cuellar) at 2 o’clock and 12 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Mr. Smith of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 2021, I call up the bill (H.R. 335) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, and ask
for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 335

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

SECTION 1. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS REGULAR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 113(a) of title 10, United States Code, the first person appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Secretary of Defense in an appointment made on or after January 20, 2021, may be a person who is, on the date of appointment, within seven years after relief, but not within four years after relief, from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of the Armed Forces.

(b) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—This section applies only to the first person nominated after January 20, 2021, may be a person who is, on the date of appointment, within seven years after relief, but not within four years after relief, from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Austin will be the first African American Secretary of Defense, which is enormously important. That is why this law still matters because without this law we would not have the opportunity to question Mr. Austin in advance of his confirmation in the Senate. So the law has upheld its meaning and its role, to maintain civilian control of the military, by forcing this conversation. We would not have this process. We would not have the opportunity to question Mr. Austin who came here to the call of duty. Once again, these citizen soldiers left their homes and their jobs to respond to this call, and, although it is unfortunate they were needed, it is certainly appreciated by all of us that they were here.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I want to take a minute to thank the men and women of the National Guard for the service they have provided in protecting this Capitol over the last 2 weeks. I especially want to thank the 750 men and women from the State of Alabama who came here to the call of duty.

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

Mr. Austin has been out for almost 5 years, but does not meet the 7-year requirement to pass this law to give him that exemption.

Now, this is not an easy question. Civilian control of the military is enormously important. That is why this law was put in place. But in looking at this, I feel there are three basic questions:

Number one, does the nominee in question understand and reassure us in the House—for the purposes of our vote on this portion of the waiver—that he understands and is committed to civilian control of the military?

Second, is there something about this particular nominee that makes it important to grant this exclusion, to grant this waiver?

And, third, is the individual qualified for the job? Because I do believe that that is important, and the details of their history is important in deciding that.

And I have, after a lot of thought and a lot of conversations with Mr. Austin and others, concluded that all three of those criteria are met in this instance. Taking the last one first, Lloyd Austin is unquestionably highly qualified to be the Secretary of Defense. He had a distinguished career in the military, serving in multiple different command posts, including the commanding general in Iraq, the head of CENTCOM, and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. It is beyond question that Lloyd Austin is qualified for this job.

He just finished a 2-hour presentation before the Armed Services Committee, taking questions, in which he made it absolutely clear that he has a keen understanding of the issues that are going to face the Secretary of Defense and the experience and the intelligence necessary to deal with them. He is highly qualified.

On the first question of civilian control of the military, he has assured us over and over again of how important that is, and, more importantly, his actions reflect that.

He has come before the House, which you do not typically have to do in order to be confirmed to a Secretary-level position, but he has called us and he has reached out to us in a way that, frankly, 4 years ago, the Trump administration did not permit then-Secretary-nominee James Mattis to do.

He has called countless members of the committee; he has met with us. He has showed us that he respects what is really one of the cornerstones of civilian control of the military, and that is the House and the Senate. We are the ones who have oversight over the Pentagon. He has shown that he respects that.

So I can tell you and all Members voting, without a shadow of a doubt, I have no question whatsoever about Lloyd Austin upholding civilian control of the military.

And then there is the second issue: Why this person, in this instance? Mr. Austin will be the first African American nominated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Washington has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Mr. Austin will be the first African American nominated to be Secretary of Defense, which is enormously important in and of itself.

The military has a problem with diversity. They have an insufficient number of people of color who have been advanced to high positions, to general and general flag officers. It is enormously important that they address that.

In addition, in this country, we have an enormous problem right now with White supremacy. We also have a problem within our military ranks.

Now, let me be perfectly clear: I have 100 percent confidence in our military. But this is an issue that they do need to address, the rise of White supremacy and White nationalism within their ranks. Having a highly qualified African American be Secretary of Defense will be an enormous step toward addressing that problem.

So I believe 100 percent Mr. Austin has met the criteria to be granted this exclusion.

Lastly, I want to say, this law still matters because without this law we would not have this process. We would not have the opportunity to question Mr. Austin who came here to the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I want to take a minute to thank the men and women of the National Guard for the service they have provided in protecting this Capitol over the last 2 weeks. I especially want to thank the 750 men and women from the State of Alabama who came here to the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of the waiver for Lloyd Austin, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I want to take a minute to thank the men and women of the National Guard for the service they have provided in protecting this Capitol over the last 2 weeks. I especially want to thank the 750 men and women from the State of Alabama who came here to the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, once again, these citizen soldiers left their homes and their jobs to respond to this call, and, although it is unfortunate they were needed, it is certainly appreciated by all of us that they were here.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that each President deserves the opportunity to fill their Cabinet as they see fit. And I agree that it is important to confirm President Biden’s national security team as soon as possible, especially given the grave threats that we face.

Four years ago, this House provided a process to consider a waiver for General Mattis. We were all disappointed when General Mattis did not appear before the Armed Services Committee. Yet the Armed Services Committee still convened and held a public markup of the waiver, which passed without a single vote from any Democrat. Then the full House debated and voted on the waiver.

This time around, the Armed Services Committee was excluded from the process by the Democrat leadership of this House. This was not a decision
made by Chairman Smith, who wanted a public hearing as much as I did. There has been no public hearing, no markup of a waiver, no opportunity for amendments.

Just 4 years ago, Democrat leadership told us it was important it was to follow regular order and allow the Armed Services Committee to consider the Mattis waiver.

Speaker Pelosi said, "The American people are entitled to regular order and thoughtful scrutiny of nominees and any potential waivers."

Majority Leader Hooyer said, "The committee has a right and a responsibility to inquire of General Mattis why he thinks he ought to be given a waiver."

I guess this time around they don't feel the same way.

Mr. Speaker, civilian control of the military is a fundamental tenet of our Republic. It is rooted in our Constitution. The law prohibiting recently retired military from serving as Secretary of Defense was enacted shortly after World War II to uphold this principle.

In nearly 75 years, the law has only been waived twice, for General Marshall and General Mattis. This will be the third time.

But Biden didn't have to do it this way. There was a strong pool of diverse civilians and former military leaders with qualifications and experience to serve as Secretary. President Biden could have selected from this talent pool, but he chose not to.

I voted for the waiver for General Mattis, and I will vote for the waiver for General Austin. For me, it is just fair—a waiver for a Republican President and a waiver for a Democrat President.

But I stand here frustrated by this dysfunctional process. President Trump and President Biden forced this Congress into situations made worse, this time around, by the Speaker's decision to follow regular order.

Congress should not have to entertain these waivers. Presidents need to follow the law as written. They need to stop asking Congress to waive a statute. And we certainly shouldn't be forced to do so outside of regular order. If Presidents don't think the law matters, then they need to address this waiver issue in this year's NDAA.

Mr. Speaker, America faces extraordinary strategic competitors like China and Russia, rogue nations like Iran and North Korea, as well as terrorists and other transnational enemies. It is more critical now than ever to strengthen our military, address mounting readiness problems, and modernize our conventional and nuclear forces to defeat these threats.

I believe General Austin understands the threats that we face. I believe he respects the principle of civilian control, and he will stand up to the efforts of many of the Democrat majority who seek to slash defense spending and rewrite our defense strategy.

I hope the rest of the Biden administration shares his commitment for providing for our men and women in uniform the resources they need to successfully defend our Nation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to have process arguments all year long in this House, but what was just said is really disingenuous. The only reason that we didn't go through regular order, the only reason we didn't have a public hearing, and the only reason we didn't have a vote in our committee is because the Republicans, as we stand here right now, have not appointed their members to the Armed Services Committee. So, therefore, we don't have a committee.

It is the day after Mr. Biden has become President. He needs his Secretary of Defense. I have begged the Republicans for almost a month to appoint their members so we could do our job.

So for them to choose not to appoint their members and then come to the floor crying about process, that is not our job. Our job is to do the process right. They stopped us from doing the process right. I want the record to reflect that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Brown), a soon-to-be member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, Lloyd Austin, as we have heard, would be our country's first African-American Secretary of Defense. His confirmation is more than a symbolic milestone towards genuine integration of the Department of Defense; it is a substantive answer to many of the challenges that the military faces.

What are those challenges, Mr. Speaker? White supremacy and extremism. There is a dramatic rise in White supremacists and racist hate groups within our military. They actively recruit from our uniformed ranks. A Military Times survey found an alarming rise in White supremacist and racist ideology in the military.

What are those challenges, Mr. Speaker? The lack of diversity inclusion at our highest ranks and in our coveted career fields. Racial and ethnic groups make up more than 40 percent of the Nation's military, but there is a significant lack of diversity in civilian and military leadership at the most senior levels, due in large part to systemic racial bias in promotion and assignment boards. This hurts the military, our readiness and our effectiveness.

Who are those challenges, Mr. Speaker? The military isn't immune from the racial injustice that we see in the broader criminal justice system. Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice today, a Black servicemember is two times more likely to be court-martialed or punished.

These are real challenges that erode the effectiveness of our military. That is why we need a leader like Lloyd Austin. He understands the complexities of the military and the challenges our country faces. His lived experience and his professional record for a waiver to lead the Department of Defense.

President Biden is committed to civilian control of the military, protecting our men and women in uniform, and restoring American leadership. President Biden has confidence in Lloyd Austin, and so should we. He is the right man for this moment for our military.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the waiver of soon-to-be Secretary Lloyd Austin at the Department of Defense.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address my friend, the chairman's remarks about the establishment of the Armed Services Committee.

We did not establish our members from our steering committee because we didn't get our ratio from the Democrat leadership until last week. It was patently not possible.

Had we gotten our ratio a month ago or even 2 weeks ago, we would have sat our members, and we would have had a sitting committee.

The reason we didn't have a public hearing today, the chairman is right, we didn't have a sitting committee. That is the fault of the Democrat leadership, not the minority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Gallagher), my friend and colleague.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Alabama for his strong leadership as our new ranking member, and I look forward to working with him and the chairman on what is truly still, I think, the most bipartisan committee in Congress.

I want to make clear that I have enormous respect for General Austin's service. I don't think anyone can look at his record and not come away very impressed.

But I also strongly oppose this bill. There is no waiver; we are actually changing the underlying law. This was one of the biggest talking points 4 years ago. And we should not do so lightly.

Much has been made about the historic nature of Mr. Austin's nomination, which is true but in more ways than one. If we change the law today, we will now have done so twice within 4 years, effectively destroying the historical precedent against such exemptions.

We will also invert the congressional intent in the underlying National Security Act by setting the precedent that the presumption is for approval, not the disapproval, of recently retired officers.

So the law and the norm of civil-military relations that it is meant to buttress is on life support right now.
And, as in 2017, we will be granting this exemption without a public hearing of the Armed Services Committee, which is the bare minimum of our constitutional obligations. We will be getting rolled over, to borrow a phrase that was also used in 2017. And I don’t know. I am not in the room where these ratios are discussed, and this and that, but it seems to me that it is worth waiting a few days in order to have such a public hearing, but I am understanding that our 40-hour workweek next week has been canceled.

So I don’t think it withstands basic scrutiny to suggest that we couldn’t have had a public hearing to discuss this very, very important issue.

Now, 4 years ago, I voted in favor of the exemption for Secretary Mattis. I think it was my first vote. It was certainly my first speech on the House floor. 4 years is fair to ask what has changed. Well, a lot has changed.

First and perhaps most importantly, the threat from China is far greater, and we need a Secretary with Indo-Pacific experience. The nominee had admitted that he is not uniquely qualified in that regard, and I don’t think there is a more important aspect of his experience that we could analyze in considering whether to change the underlying law.

Second, budgetary pressures on the Department are much bigger. Particularly in the post-pandemic world, it is going to be far more difficult to build off of the success that we have had in giving the Department the resources it needs, and we will need a Secretary with political experience who can fight and win interagency battles for a higher top line.

And, third, we also have more data. Four years ago, we ran this experiment for the first time in 67 years, and we learned that recently retired general officers face unique challenges when leading the Department—specifically, the need to publicly advocate for a higher budget which requires political experience. And the nominee has made much of the apolitical nature of his prior experience.

Now, I know in politics we are not supposed to change our minds, but if we are unwilling to learn from recent experience or change our minds in response to new information, then we are doomed to repeat the exact same mistakes.

This is why I am voting “no,” among other reasons.

But I want to be clear. I want Mr. Austin, soon-to-be Secretary Austin, to be successful in this job. Nothing would make me happier than to look back on his time at DOD and be able to say he was the most successful Secretary of Defense in our Nation’s history because that will mean that we as a committee were working with a politician who did what is right for our men and women in uniform and do what is right for the rest of the country.

Though I will oppose changing the law again for the second time in 4 years, I very much look forward to working with my colleagues, both Republican and Democratic. I genuinely appreciate the honest exchange of views we had 4 years ago and 4 years later. I can only say that 4 years from now, I hope we are not having the same debate because it will prove we have learned nothing from this.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his extraordinary leadership as chair of the Armed Services Committee.

He brings us to the floor today for a very special privilege. We in the House really most of the time do not have too much say as to who will be a member of the Cabinet. That is, advise and consent responsibility of the Senate. But today, because of the special nature of the appointee, we are here to talk about a waiver.

As a Member of Congress, again, there is no more serious responsibility. The protection and the ability to defend. Our responsibility is to protect the American people. That responsibility is why we must waste no time ensuring that President Joe Biden’s national defense and national security team is confirmed, ready and able to keep our country and our people safe.

President Biden has selected a highly qualified and widely respected leader in nominating General Lloyd Austin for Secretary of Defense. General Austin has led with honor and served with dignity. With over 40 years of decorated Army service, Secretary-designate Austin brings a great understanding of the challenges facing our Nation’s defense and a deep appreciation for the sacrifice of our military and their families.

The historical circumstances of this nomination, in light of the deadly insurrection assault on the Capitol, the coronavirus pandemic, the undermining of the Pentagon by the previous President, and more, necessitate the expedient confirmation of this extremely qualified leader.

I do want to say as a constitutional officer—the Speaker of the House is a constitutional officer, written right into the Constitution—and as a former leader of the Intelligence Committee, a Democratic leader of the Intelligence Committee, my commitment to a strong civilian control of our military, as required by the Constitution, is strong.

It is not an issue with us, Mr. Speaker. It is a value, civilian control of the military. The Congress’ power to grant or withhold an exemption for recent Active Duty military servicemembers to be the Secretary of Defense must be treated with gravity and extreme dilligence.

That is why I am so glad that President Biden and General Austin insisted and met our request to come to speak to Armed Services Committee members. That did not happen under General Mattis. I am a big fan of General Mattis, but President Trump said he could not come speak to the Congress, and that is a big difference. That is a big difference.

Again, with gratitude to President Biden in recognizing the important role that the House of Representatives plays in this, I had the privilege, as have other Members, of hearing from General Austin as well as the committee today.

By the way, in case you didn’t notice, when we are talking about timetables relating to committee ratios, 2 weeks ago, there was an insurrection in this Chamber. It was disruptive of the normal pattern unfolding. We all had to adjust our schedules and address the needs of our caucuses and this Congress accordingly, in case you didn’t notice.

Again, my conversations with the Secretary-designate have assured me that he understands, respects, and will uphold the critical priority of civilian control of the military. He has spoken several times to the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and the committee today. The nominee has given similar assurances.

The Secretary-designate has further demonstrated his commitment to transparency with the Congress, respecting the weight of the decision that we now make the most important meeting with members of the Armed Services Committee to discuss this issue earlier today.

In the face of the many threats, both foreign and domestic, confronting our Nation, it is essential that Secretary-designate Austin be immediately confirmed. Blocking this waiver would be a mistake that, among other dangers, would delay the urgent work to be done to restore the independence and capabilities of the Defense Department, which we must do as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong bipartisan vote to grant this waiver for Secretary-designate Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense. I salute him for his patriotism, thank him for his heroism; and look forward to calling him Mr. Secretary.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACOBS).

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the waiver allowing General Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense.

Civilian leadership at the top of the Pentagon is desirable and necessary. I believe this should only be reserved for unique circumstances. Regularly nominated candidates who require waivers is not a precedent we should set.

However, examining General Austin’s credentials and the circumstances facing our Nation lead me to believe the approval of this specific waiver is warranted.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing. China is growing bolder and more
aggressive, using espionage, cyber warfare, and manipulation to undermine U.S. and global security. Iran remains an ever-present threat to the Middle East and the world. North Korea continues to pursue an ambitious nuclear weapons development program.

These issues and others require the steady hand of an experienced and qualified Secretary of Defense. General Austin meets these requirements and is more than qualified to oversee our Nation’s military.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of this waiver. I look forward to working with Secretary Austin to confront these very real threats to our national security.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership. Mr. Rogers, I have learned that history there are many generals who are celebrated for logistical feats to win a war. Rare is a general who is celebrated for logistical feats to end a war.

General Austin presided over the most significant withdrawal of troops and equipment, over 150,000 troops from Iraq, successfully. He helped bring that conflict to an end.

General Austin helped us prevent getting into a catastrophic conflict in Syria.

Now, I don’t think the American people are concerned about process arguments, about whether someone wore a uniform or didn’t wear a uniform. What they want to know is the outcome. Is the leader going to help start new wars or end wars? General Austin, with Secretary Blinken and Jake Sullivan, is the leader going to help end the war in Yemen.

They want to know: Is a leader going to turn a blind eye to White supremacy, or are they going to stand up for equality? General Austin will stand up for equality in our military.

Most importantly, they want to know: Is the leader going to circumvent the President of the United States, as certain civilian leaders have, or is the leader going to defer to the duly elected President of the United States? General Austin deferred to President Obama, and he will absolutely defer to President Biden.

The last point I hear my colleagues say is, well, he doesn’t have expertise in China or India. Well, first of all, no one has expertise in every region of the world. And, if you’re going to have a Ph.D. thesis about every country.

The important thing is that we do not need another leader who is going to saber-rattle and get us into another cold war with China. We need someone who is going to have the wisdom and the judgment to defer to the national security team and the President and help create a constructive relationship. General Austin will do that.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my friend and colleague.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this waiver.

General Lloyd Austin grew up in south Georgia, where he was raised by his parents in Thomasville. A graduate of West Point, he would go on to a career that spanned numerous units, responsibilities, and engagements. His first assignment was to the 3rd Infantry Division, now stationed in my district at Fort Stewart.

In the early 2000s, he served as assistant division commander for the 3rd Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq. He would later go on to serve as a division commander and the chief of staff of the United States Central Command, CENTCOM; the commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps; the Army vice chief of staff; and, finally, the commanding general of the United States Army.

He has been described as a private individual who is committed to carrying out his duties.

I, like others, have my reservations about continuing down a path of waivers for former military leaders to serve in civilian positions. What first started with a waiver for General Marshall in 1950 and then again for General Mattis in 2017, we have now seen several requests for what many see as a once-in-a-generation issue. However, General Austin’s service and assignments are a reflection of his success in his military career.

If confirmed, it is my hope that General Austin will carry out his commitment to civilian control of the Department of Defense and advocate for the priorities central to national security, such as the modernizing of the triad.

In a time when our adversaries seek to capitalize on any weaknesses, we need strong leadership. General Lloyd Austin will provide us with that.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman who is committed to carrying out his duties.

If confirmed, it is my hope that General Austin will carry out his commitment to civilian control of the Department of Defense and advocate for the priorities central to national security, such as the modernizing of the triad.

In a time when our adversaries seek to capitalize on any weaknesses, we need strong leadership. General Lloyd Austin will provide us with that.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I raise as one of those who opposed the waiver for General Mattis. People ask me, well, what is the difference? Mr. GALLAGHER raised this. You change your mind.

Let me tell you what makes the difference for me — for me. I think this law is a very relevant law. It is a very important law. It anticipated, for example, if we had not included it. It would have made a preclusion. It did not do that.

It said under circumstances that the Congress considers, it may be well to be without a Secretary of Defense. It is because we do not want a long period of time between having somebody in charge in the Defense Department and, in this case, somebody in charge who obviously knows and agrees with the principles of the President of the United States.

I am sure he will give good advice and sometimes he will disagree, but we have a confidence relationship. So very importantly very important.

This is not a moment for our country to be without a Secretary of Defense. Secretary-designate Austin is a highly qualified nominee, spoken to by the bipartisan support that this waiver will garner this day in the Congress of the United States. Mr. Speaker, he would make history, of course, as has been pointed out, and not an insubstantial mark on history.

Secretary-designate Austin is the first African American who will be Secretary of Defense. At this time, our country is fighting to overcome the legacy of slavery, segregation, and prejudice, as has been pointed out by Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BRUCE, who served as a lieutenant colonel in the Armed Forces.

Secretary-designate Austin served in Iraq. Forty percent minorities. What a symbol and a bridge between those of the majority and those of the minority in our services, which will coalesce and bind together better the units, which is extraordinarily important.
Secretary-designate Austin served our Nation admirably in uniform and oversaw the safe and successful drawdown of our troops in Iraq, as has been pointed out by Representative KHANNA. In doing so, he earned the trust of then-Vice President Biden and Beau Biden.

Because of Secretary-designate Austin’s recent military service, he requires a waiver. But, again, the waiver is included so that the Congress can make a determination as to whether this is appropriate. I can’t think of a more appropriate Secretary of Defense than somebody who has great knowledge and confidence of the Commander in Chief. We ought to take that action without delay.

Mr. Speaker, we must always have a clear delineation between the military and civilian authorities in this country. I have a picture hanging on my wall, which is also in the rotunda. I have it in my office because it is in the Maryland State Senate, the Old Chamber. It is still in existence, still in the capitol in Annapolis, of George Washington resigning his commission as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. And I always point out to people who office in my office that the Members of the Continental Congress are seated notwithstanding their inclination in the presence of this great, iconic figure was to stand and pay reverence to him. And George Washington said, “No, you sit,” because the civilian government is superior to the military. What a great lesson George Washington taught us at that time, which, thank God, has been revered until this time.

I think this appointment is the right appointment. I think it will be good for America. I think it will be good for the Armed Forces of the United States of America. I think the President has chosen well.

I urge my colleagues to grant this waiver. This, I would add, is not confirmation. Our brothers and sisters in the United States Senate will still have to judge and give advice and consent to this appointment, but this waiver is a precondition to their considering it on the merits. I hope that we will give them that.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who is the ranking member of Readiness Subcommittee.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

I have heard from people today who voted “yes” on Mattis and now say they are “no”; or they voted “no” on Mattis and now they are a “yes.” I guess that makes me a model of consistency because I am a “yes” and a “yes.”

Mr. Speaker, we should vote “yes” to give this waiver because, as Mr. HOYER has pointed out, the committee and I can’t think of a pressing upon us. We can’t take weeks and weeks to get this person installed. So we need to act quickly and we need to have a waiver rather than starting all over again in this process.

The other thing is Mr. Austin has been out of the military for almost 5 years. Under the law, there is a 7-year cooling off period. Five years, in my mind, is too long.

I mean, what is magic about 7 years? Is 6 years and 10 months not good enough, but 7 years and 1 month is good enough? There is a little arbitrariness involved here when choosing 7 years for the first place. I believe that 5 years—almost 5 years is sufficient for Mr. Austin to have cooled off.

We had a roundtable today in committee, I thank the chairman for having that roundtable. We heard from Mr. Austin. He very eloquently stated, yeah, he could stand up to people who were in the military. He can tell them what is good for the civilian control of our country. I trust him. He is the right man for the job.

Our security experts are too pressing to keep dilly-dallying on this. Let’s vote “yes” on this issue and supply the waiver today.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), or autonomous warfare or any of the other issues that I have heard people talk about that are really the purview of the Senate at this point in the process and President Biden. It is also not about changing the law, because the law remains in effect and the limitation remains in effect.

The question before this body is whether there are specific extenuating circumstances in this moment in time to grant a waiver and whether the heart and mind of the nominee is consistent with the spirit of the law. In the aftermath of January 6, we are reminded how deeply rooted racism exists in our country. Among those who stormed the Capitol were current and former military, a fact that highlights our history of civil-military relations.

In a matter of weeks, both the House Armed Services Committee and Appropriations Subcommittee will welcome a newly minted Secretary of Defense. In the aftermath of January 6, we are reminded how deeply rooted racism exists in our country. Among those who stormed the Capitol were current and former military, a fact that highlights the national and domestic security threat of extremism in our military.

Secretary-designee Austin is uniquely qualified by experience and his background to address this threat. He understands in a deeply personal way how to deal with it. He is a man who understands that our military is more than a formation of tanks, planes, and troops; that it is actually a standard bearer of our values, and we are stronger when we lead with our values and we channel the full strength of our diversity to meet our threats.

In addition to that, nobody can stand up here and say, as we are still under cyber attack by Russia and meeting so many other threats, that the extenuating circumstances of the time do not merit getting a nominee into this role immediately. That is why I rise in strong support of Lloyd Austin’s nomination and waiver, and I will be working very hard to support him as our next Secretary of Defense.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), to grant President Biden his historic nomination for Secretary of Defense.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of the waiver for General Lloyd Austin, to grant President Biden his historic nomination for Secretary of Defense.

The concern of civilian control of the military and Department of Defense should not be lost in this waiver. There are valid concerns in granting second waivers so soon. The missed opportunity for the House—the Chamber of Representatives—was the chance to hear from General Austin directly—is disappointing, but these are not normal times. The layers of security currently protecting the Capitol is a stark reminder that President Biden, our servicemembers, and our Nation need top defense leadership in place expeditiously.

There is no question General Austin is a devoutly patriotic man. He has served our country with utter distinction and honor. His qualifications, experience, and perspective are what our Nation needs today. His service to our country extends over 4 decades. His talent and dedication to America’s security in roles in which few Americans can fully comprehend. Yet again and again he stands before us, hat in hand, willing to serve the Stars and Stripes today.

The question is: Can he disconnect a potentially unconscious bias toward a military mindset?

As he assured the Senate and the American people throughout his confirmation hearing, there is no doubt he will. Life has honed him in decision-making in the most difficult situations. In a matter of weeks, both the House Armed Services Committee and our Defense Appropriations Subcommittee will welcome a newly minted Secretary of Defense Austin. Members can hear even more from him directly as to how he will lead as a civilian. Over my years as a defense appropriator, I have come to realize our military personnel are phenomenal at filling the roles they are assigned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), to grant President Biden his historic nomination for Secretary of Defense.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), to grant President Biden his historic nomination for Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, our military personnel are continuously placed in nontraditional positions and time and again perform flawlessly. There is no doubt General Austin understands being a member of the President’s Cabinet requires a different perspective. He will fill this role and perform admirably.

Mr. Speaker, our military personnel are continuously placed in nontraditional positions and time and again perform flawlessly. There is no doubt General Austin understands being a member of the President’s Cabinet requires a different perspective. He will fill this role and perform admirably.
For these reasons, I encourage all my colleagues to support this waiver.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Issa).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 335 because there is a compelling reason to do so. I rose in support of a previous general. But when I look at General Lloyd Austin, I see a qualified individual, in my opinion, and I see somebody worthy of the Senate considering. But I also see that, in fact, we are setting a precedent.

Sixty-seven years, we didn’t. Two administrations in a row, we have. I strongly recommend today that the Armed Services Committees in both bodies begin the process of looking at what the true length of time should be and what exceptions and exemptions need to be there.

Although General Austin is a very qualified individual, he still will have subordinates whom he helped promote. He still will have people whom he is extremely close to. And that creates a question of civilian leadership.

So although I am not here today to speak in any way against the general or any way against his predecessor, General Mattis, I am saying that it is time for this body, after this vote, to move to a deliberative process and regular order and begin asking: Is 10 years right? Is 7 years right?

If I year is right, what will be the requirements for that individual because we are facing now future highly qualified former military person?

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Lynch).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 335, legislation to allow President-elect Biden to appoint Gen. Lloyd Austin III to serve as the next Secretary of Defense. Throughout my tenure on the National Security Subcommittee, I have had the personal opportunity to meet with and interact with General Austin on numerous occasions in the field during the course of several of our oversight investigations.

In the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom, we met in Kabul, Afghanistan, during his deployment as commander of Combined Joint Task Force 180. I dealt with General Austin again in the midst of Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as during Operation New Dawn. We also met in Baghdad during his multiple deployments as commander of the Multinational Corps and commander of United States Forces-Iraq.

And I have personally received multiple intelligence briefings from General Austin in his capacity as commander of U.S. Central Command. By the way, he was the first African American to lead that critically important combat command.

Throughout the congressional investigations into the progress of U.S. military diplomatic and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and other regional conflicts, General Austin impressed upon me as well as our Western allies with our direct access to the battlefield and the straight and honest and hard facts as he saw them on the ground.

His assessment proved to be critical to our oversight mission and the development of legislation concerning U.S. defense, national security, and counterterrorism policies.

He always demonstrated a maximum respect for the constitutional oversight role of the United States Congress and clearly held the highest regard for the civilian leadership of the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, General Austin is especially qualified and deserving of a congressional exemption that will allow President Barack Obama to appoint him as Secretary of Defense. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 335.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I think I would like to raise the question, what would Abraham Lincoln do, a man who faced the turmoil of a divided Nation. I think he would look for an individual like General Mr. Lloyd Austin, someone who had had the balance of seeing life as a civilian but being an impeccable leader of the United States military.

Mr. Speaker, before I came to this floor, I walked down Independence Avenue to greet the young men and women in the National Guard who had come here from Texas to visit them and know how important it was for them to be here to defend the citadel of democracy and how grateful we were that we had a peaceful transition of power yesterday.

What I see in Mr. Austin is a recognition of civilian control of the military has been a bedrock principle of our democracy since the founding of the Republic. That principle has served the nation well and we should depart from it only where there is compelling reason to do so.

Indeed, in the history of the Department of Defense, the only Defense Secretary ever granted a waiver was then-Secretary of State, General George Marshall—who was provided an individual waiver in 1950 at the height of the Korean War in a stand-alone bill approved by the Congress.

That is why I did not support granting waiver for General Mattis to be nominated as Secretary of Defense in the last administration. Even General Mattis is a great general and a great American and served well as Secretary of Defense.

But the experience of the last four years leads me to a different result today.

For four years, the Department of Defense had to deal with attempts by the last President and his staff to undermine the independence and capability of the Department of Defense, going so far as to refer to the men and women who risk their lives to keep us free as “suckers” and “losers” and appointing unqualified persons as Acting Secretary of Defense and to other senior positions.

The Pentagon needs—the United States needs—experience—an experienced tenured, permanent, confirmed Secretary of Defense to restore morale and regularity as soon as possible.

I agree with President Biden that Gen. Austin’s many strengths and intimate knowledge of the Department of Defense and our government are uniquely matched to the challenges and crises we face.

The next Secretary of Defense will need to immediately quarterback an enormous logistics operation to help distribute COVID–19 vaccines widely and equitably.

General Austin oversaw the largest logistical operation undertaken by the Army in six decades—the Iraq drawdown of 150,000 service personnel.

January 21, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
The next Secretary of Defense will need to ensure the well-being and resilience of our servicemembers and their families, strained by almost two decades of war.

General Austin knows the incredible cost of war and the hardships experienced by the families of our servicemen and women.

The next Secretary of Defense will have to make sure that our armed forces reflect and promote the full diversity of our nation.

General Austin is uniquely qualified to lead and oversee this effort to ensure that every member of the armed forces is treated with dignity and respect, including Black, Latino, Asian American, Native American, women, and LGBTQ+ service members.

General Austin, who was born in Mobile, Alabama and raised in Thomasville, Georgia, graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 and rose through the Army’s ranks during his distinguished and trailblazing career, becoming only the sixth African American to attain the rank of an Army four-star general, and over his nearly four-decade military career, Commander of U.S. Central Command to become the first African American to serve as Commander of CENTCOM, the U.S. Central Command, where he oversaw America’s military strategy and joint operations throughout the Middle East and in Afghanistan.

He was the chief architect of the military campaign to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and became the second highest ranking commander in Iraq, taking command of the Multi-National Corps—Iraq.

Mr. Lloyd Austin is highly decorated with many awards and decorations including medals of Distinction, Medals of Valor, Distinguished Service Medals, Army Distinguished Service Medal, a Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, and a Legion of Merit medal.

Mr. Austin’s experience has proven and demonstrated extraordinary leadership across a lifetime of distinguished service and is well prepared to lead our nation’s military and strong and dedicated civilian leader.

The nation needs a leader over the Pentagon that respects civilian control, to build up morale of our armed forces, and bring consistency, stability, and leadership at the highest level to the Department of Defense. That is Lloyd Austin, retired General. Further, as an African American woman, I believe this historic nomination will further heal and unite the nation.

Secretary-designate Lloyd Austin has previously been confirmed by the Senate because of his impeccable commitment to duty and his reputation. As a proud American who loves his country just as much out of uniform as in uniform, he deserves a waiver by a simple majority as in uniform, he deserves a waiver by a simple majority for this critical role of overseeing our military forces and protecting our great nation.

Retired General Lloyd Austin is an example of why America is still that “shining city on the hill” and why he should be confirmed by the United States Senate for secretary of Defense. Retired General Lloyd Austin is the right man for this right and momentous time in our nation’s history.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of granting the historic nomination of retired Army General Lloyd Austin and this historic nomination to serve as the 28th Secretary of Defense, the first African American in U.S. history.
For four decades, Secretary-designate Austin served our Nation valiantly in the United States Army. Before retiring, he led one of the most important commands in the military, CENTCOM, or Central Command, where he oversaw America’s military strategy and joint operations throughout the Middle East.

During his service in the Middle East, he oversaw the safe return of 150,000 brave American troops, working closely with our allies as a statesman and diplomat.

As our Commander in Chief, I support President Biden in his selection of Lloyd Austin to protect our national security, strengthen our global alliances, depoliticize the Defense Department, and be a leader and role model for our brave servicemembers.

I had the opportunity to speak directly with Secretary-designate Austin about the needs of servicemembers and their families in Nevada’s Fourth District. I want to work with him on issues important to those servicemembers and their families stationed at Nellis and Creech Air Force Bases and the Nevada Test Site, including issues dealing with housing, mental health, childcare, and education.

His leadership, his experience, and his commitment to civil control of the military will ensure our country meets its national security needs.

As our Secretary of Defense, he will also share a powerful message of belonging to all servicemembers but particularly to members of color, who represent more than 40 percent of our armed services today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this historic nomination, approve the waiver required today, and confirm Secretary-designate Austin’s nomination.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the requested waiver for General Austin. It is my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the requested waiver of the Secretary of Defense nominee, retired four-star General Lloyd S. Austin, III.

President Biden recognizes the need to have the most qualified individuals in high-profile positions throughout the ship from day one. The issues of instability of our Department of Defense, morale, and a desire to engage more vigorously with the world require that a nominee be one who has the type of career that General Austin does.

General Austin’s distinguished career and experience as a commander of the U.S. Central Command and Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army have prepared him, I hope, to be ideal for the task at hand.

We agree that the separation of Active Duty military and civilian is important. Moreover, I have full confidence, however, that the Secretary-designate shares these values, in that he came to the House, reaching out to this body in a way that shows reverence for the continued promotion and defense of civilian control of the military.

Lastly, having an African-American Secretary of Defense is particularly important at this time, as the military must address the growing evidence of sympathy towards dangerous conspiracies and White supremacist causes amongst servicemembers—evidence made exponentially troubling due to the fact that a large percentage of servicemembers are people of color.

General Lloyd Austin is the right person for the job at the time, and Congress must allow him to get through and get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the waiver for General Austin. Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank my friend and colleague Chairman SMITH, and I look forward to working with him over this 2-year cycle.

The debate we have had today is a serious one. The executive branch is asking Congress to waive a law for its benefit. President Biden knew this law when he selected General Austin. He could have made another selection.

But, as I said earlier, President Trump did not have a waiver to make a law for its benefit. President Biden knew this law when he selected General Austin. He could have made another selection.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, from this debate, it is clear that Mr. Austin is highly qualified to be Secretary of Defense. It is also clear that he has a full appreciation of the importance of civilian control of the military.

And, finally, it is clear that he is unique to this moment. His experiences as an African-American man coming up through the ranks has put him in a unique position to address the problems of White supremacy and a lack of diversity across the military in addition to all of the other challenges that we have heard from speakers today.

There is no question that he is qualified for this job, and that he should be given the waiver so that he can serve in this position.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by speaking to the urgency of why we need to do this today and how we got to this place.

When I first heard that Secretary Austin was going to be the selection, I was not thrilled about it, not because of Secretary Austin—I know him, I have worked with him, and I think he will do an outstanding job—but because I realized the responsibility that it put on this House.

And large—not "by and large"—entirely, nominees are the business of the Senate. They confirm; the President picks. But because he picked someone who would require a waiver, we had to engage.

And I understood the urgency of getting that done, even while the Committee on Armed Services was still in the midst of dealing with the President’s veto of the defense bill and trying to get the override done. But I knew the urgency. We had to find a way to get it done.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to make perfectly clear that Mr. ROGERS has been an outstanding partner in work to genuinely respect the rule. I supported this this forward. The process arguments get lost in the weeds. There were a whole bunch of things we had to do to be organized as a committee, to be ready to meet the requirements that we had, and we tried our best to do it.

Now, it is my humble opinion that we met those requirements even if we didn’t have a public hearing. As has been stated by many Members, right before this vote we had 2 hours with Mr. Austin over in committee, in which members, Republican and Democratic members alike, were able to ask him questions and get his answers.

And I will tell you, I feel even stronger about the need to confirm him after that conversation. Not only was he intelligent, not only was he on point, not only did he understand the issues, but he had something, frankly, not everybody in the Pentagon has: He seemed to genuinely respect us. He seemed to genuinely want to answer our questions, want to deal with us as a coequal branch of government. That is enormously important.

But the urgency is why we are here today and why we didn’t wait the extra week or 10 days. Joe Biden is President. He doesn’t have a Secretary of Defense. Every day that goes past that is a huge problem for a variety of reasons.

Let’s start with the fact that much has been made that this waiver is problematic because we did it 4 years ago and now we are doing it again; the exception has become the rule.

Well, if it makes anybody feel better, there have actually been four separate Secretaries, people in the Secretary of Defense position, in between Mattis and Austin. So it is really just, sort of, two out of six.

That many people have churned through the leadership role in the Pentagon. And while the people at the Pentagon have done an amazing job fighting through that, it is still problematic to have to have that much turnover.

The disruption that President Trump brought to the Pentagon cannot be underestimated.
I will never forget being in the meeting in the White House when we were talking about the pullout from Syria when someone dared to bring up Secretary Mattis’s opinion—recently departed Secretary Mattis from the Department of Defense—and President Trump, just lit into Secretary Mattis, called him weak, called him a terrible human being.

Meanwhile, sitting right next to him was the incoming Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley, who had worked with Jim Mattis. And this is his new boss.

Mr. Speaker, the disruption at the Pentagon has been enormous. They need a fully confirmed Secretary of Defense immediately to begin to thoroughly clean up that mess and get the Pentagon back to being as effective as it needs to be.

Also, and I will not belabor this point at all, we have a complex threat environment, right? Let’s just say that. We heard about it on the committee today, about China, Russia, Iran, the Middle East, North Korea, not to mention the domestic front. And that we witnessed here just a couple of weeks ago. There is an urgency to this.

If there wasn’t an urgency to this, I would have waited a week and said, okay, let’s take however much time. People clear out their calendars, and pick their members, and whatever.

There is an urgency. So instead of having the public hearing, we had a very, very successful briefing.

The House this time has done its job in a way that it didn’t 1 years ago when we simply took Mattis, didn’t hear from him, and voted on it.

There is a minor point of whether or not we mark this up in committee. This is not a complicated bill. Either Austin gets the waiver and he serves, or he doesn’t.

There is really nothing to mark up. It is a question for the House. That is why we came to the full House.

Mr. Speaker, the cooperation, I may say, of Mr. Rogers and all the Members has done its due diligence, above and beyond. We have concluded, without question, that the waiver is appropriate. Lloyd Austin will be an outstanding Secretary of Defense. He deserves this waiver, and our country deserves a fully confirmed Secretary of Defense as soon as we can possibly get that done, which, for the purposes of the House, is now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COBAMORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 335, which would provide a waiver to allow for full Senate consideration of General Lloyd Austin’s nomination as Secretary of Defense. While I have great concerns over use of this process to appoint former military leaders to senior civilian positions in the Department of Defense, and I believe that civilian control of the military is critical to our democracy, I support this waiver for General Austin for several reasons.

The first is the need for clear and effective leadership at the Pentagon. The previous administration drastically politicized the Department of Defense and hollowed out existing leadership to put in place less experienced political allies to do former President Trump’s bidding. This has left our nation even more vulnerable to international and domestic crises, including the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, the recent cyber attack on our government systems by Russia, and rising tensions with Iran and throughout the Middle East. General Austin brings a distinctiveness and an unwavering commitment to our nation’s security, and the respect of our men and women in uniform and will provide a needed steady hand at the Department of Defense.

Second, Lloyd Austin possesses the skills and temperament to address the challenges our country faces. President Biden noted when discussing his selection of General Austin that he played a vital role in bringing American forces home from Iraq using diplomatic skill and an ability to work cooperatively with his counterparts of the military and government that Austin had met every challenge in his career with “extraordinary skill and profound personal decency.” These qualities will be necessary as America works to regain its leadership on the world stage, rebuild alliances, and address the many challenges our country faces.

Third, General Austin understands the importance of civilian control of the military to our democracy and has expressed his commitment to this principle. Unlike the last time a waiver was sought when Secretary Mattis was prevented from testifying before Congress by President Trump and was unable to reassure American people about the importance of maintaining civilian control of the Department of Defense, General Austin did testify. During his confirmation hearing, General Austin expressed full understanding of the concerns over his appointment given he has been retired from active service for only four years. He highlighted his experience implementing civilian directives, and his understanding of the need for a different perspective as a civilian leader. I am confident that under the leadership of Lloyd Austin, that principle will be preserved and protected.

Finally, General Austin’s confirmation as Secretary of Defense would be a watershed moment as the first African American to hold that office in our nation’s history. In a period where racial tensions have led to resentment among Americans, a rise in white nationalist extremism, and peaceful demonstrations in U.S. cities often turning violent, General Austin’s appointment would demonstrate that America embraces the diversity of our country, and that representation in all facets of our government and national security structures matters.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the waiver for General Lloyd J. Austin III to become our next Secretary of Defense. However, I want to be clear that this vote should not be seen as supporting a precedent for routine granting of waivers for future noncivilian nominees to lead the Department of Defense. We must keep the waiver requirement in place, and waivers should be reserved for extraordinary circumstances. I strongly support civilian leadership of the military, and the waiver requirement was created to protect this important principle. That being said, our country is facing the simultaneous threats of a global pandemic, unprecedented cyberattacks on our government, and the recent departure of a president who attempted to enlist military personnel to disrupt civilian protest. Considering these extraordinary circumstances, we need a qualified Secretary of Defense.

Under normal circumstances, a public hearing before the House Armed Services Committee would be an important part of the waiver process. Unfortunately, because the House Armed Services Committee is not fully set up, the committee cannot conduct hearings on the waiver yet. However, unlike the Trump Administration, the Biden Administration has made General Austin readily available to Congress, and he has demonstrated that he understands the importance of civilian leadership of the Pentagon.

With these assurances, I express my support for General Austin’s waiver to move forward in this confirmation process. However, I reiterate to my colleagues that this vote cannot be seen to support a precedent to grant waivers to non-civilian Secretaries of Defense.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 335, a bill to provide Ret. General Lloyd Austin an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as United States Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

It is incumbent upon Congress to consider a waiver for such persons who are deemed not far enough removed from active duty to head the Department of Defense. Previous exemptions through a waiver have only been granted twice in our nation’s history, most recently in 2017. However, my colleagues and I in the Congressional Black Caucus find it altogether fitting and proper that Ret. General Lloyd Austin is the recipient of the third.

Ret. General Austin is an experienced leader, a brilliant strategist, and a decorated hero. He has seen war from the frontlines as a soldier, and from afar as a commander. He is not one that seeks the spotlight or controversy, but one who quietly, but confidently gets the job done—earning him the nickname of “invisible general.”

Mr. Speaker, as the first African American to hold the title of Secretary of Defense, I am confident that Ret. General Austin would carry out the mission of the Department of Defense with the utmost sense of professionalism and civility. That is why I am proud to support his waiver today and look forward to his swift confirmation in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for President Biden’s nomination of the uniquely qualified General Lloyd J. Austin III (U.S. Army, Ret.) to serve as Secretary of Defense. Today, we are debating whether in the case of Gen. Austin’s confirmation there should be a waiver of the requirement that former military officers be separated from active duty for seven years before serving as Defense Secretary. Civilian control of the military is foundational to our democratic republic, and any action that could be perceived as affecting that principle must be carefully considered.

I do have reservations. If such an exception becomes a pattern, it may become a routine practice. Yet we find ourselves in times that
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 326, nays 78, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 326, nays 78, as follows:

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 326, nays 78, as follows:
Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred to the appropriate committees of the House:

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. BEB, and Mr. VAN DREW):
H.R. 373. A bill to treat certain face coverings and disinfectants as medical expenses for purposes of the Federal tax benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BOEERT (for herself, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. BUDD, Mr. NORRIS, Mr. ROUCHER, Mr. RUSK, Mr. ROUIZIER):
H.R. 374. A bill to prohibit the availability of United States contributions to the World Health Organization unless Congress receives a full report on China and the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BOEERT:
H.R. 375. A bill to provide that no person may be required to wear a face covering on Federal property or while traveling in interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BOEERT (for herself, Mr. ROUSH, Mr. LOWE of Virginia, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. HERRELL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. PFEIFFER, Mr. CLINE, Mr. WERBER of Texas):
H.R. 376. A bill to require the advice and consent to ratification of the Paris Agreement by the United States before any other action may be taken to carry out the goals of the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ABBINGTON:
H.R. 377. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the maximum term of imprisonment for rioting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. Cárdenas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BLUNT ROCHETE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DUETCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GHJALVA, Ms. ROYAL-ALLARD, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SPANNER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SARABAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. KILDER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. GARCÍA of Texas):
H.R. 378. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the maximum term of imprisonment for rioting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. Cárdenas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BLUNT ROCHETE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DUETCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GHJALVA, Ms. ROYAL-ALLARD, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SPANNER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SARABAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. KILDER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. GARCÍA of Texas):
H.R. 379. A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. MOORE of Mississippi, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROUCHER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GOOD of VIRGINIA, Mr. CATHORN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. KELLY of Ohio, and Mr. JACKSON):
H.R. 380. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROUCHER, Mr. MOORE of Texas, Mrs. RINSON, Mr. CAUTHORN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KEHRER, and Mr. JACKSON):
H.R. 381. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain abortion procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROUCHER, Mr. MOORE of Texas, Mrs. RINSON, Mr. CAUTHORN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. STEUBER):
H.R. 382. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, with respect to bikeshare projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. HARRIS):
H.R. 383. A bill to include certain eligibility requirements in the surface transportation system funding alternatives program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Ms. PRESSLEY):
H.R. 384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify employer-provided fringe benefits for bicycling commuting; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI):
H.R. 385. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for the operation of a clearinghouse to collect, conduct, and fund research on the influences of highly automated vehicles on land use, urban design, transportation, real estate, and municipal budgets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. TTUS, Ms. BROWNLY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. COHEN):
H.R. 386. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to funding for certain safety projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. GARCÍA of California):
H.R. 387. A bill to prevent doses of vaccines for COVID-19 from being wasted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. KAHELE):
H.R. 388. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by requiring preclearance quarantine inspections for all movement to or from the State of Hawaii by either domestic or international vessel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. SHERES, Mr. NEUHUS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. NORTON):
H.R. 389. A bill to impose safety requirements on commercial air tour flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. FLIECKENREIN, Mr. KUNTZPF, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. HARSHBAUGH, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):
H.R. 390. A bill to redesignate the Federal building located at 1670 Jefferson Street in Memphis, Tennessee as the “Odell Horton Federal Building”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BEA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BURKE, Ms. BROWNLY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CIOLLÁN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COLE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CONTIS, Ms. DENTON, Mr. DUETCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LOUIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HAYES, Mr. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. "..."
Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SEAN FITZPATRICK of New York, Ms. SOUTHWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHRES, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TRAHAEN, Ms. WATERMAN, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WIXOM, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. SANCHEZ: 

H.R. 391. A bill to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SARBANS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. THOMSON, Mr. WEXTON, Mr. BRYEN, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 392. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for pre- vailing rate employees by 3.2 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 393. A bill to provide for the more accurate and more complete accounting for the retirement and pension benefits for certain firefighters employed by the Federal Government, to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. COHN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. KIER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. MICHAEL F. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 394. A bill to expand loan relief to all Federal student loan borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 395. A bill to ensure transparency with Congress and the American people by requiring that the President report to Congress on a nationally determined contribution to the Paris Agreement prior to the submission of the nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat and to provide that nothing in the Paris Agreement is intended to create legal obligations for the United States, and to eliminate provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARRARINO (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 396. A bill to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself and Mr. T. JOHNSON):

H.R. 397. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, bio-

logical, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of such information to the Committees on Homeland Security and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GASTETZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BAXIN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. H_CATTON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina):

H.R. 398. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien who has been convicted of a crime is ineligible for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 399. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a forgivable economic injury disaster loan program for small business concerns located near the United States border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CRIST, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFIances, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KUSTER, Mr. LARIO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHRIKERS, Mr. SHRES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATERSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILD, and Ms. WILKES of Kentucky):

H.R. 400. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to increase civics education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 401. A bill to amend the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003 to pro- vide for the inclusion of certain workers in the exemption from numerical limitations on H-2B workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 402. A bill to promote international efforts in combating corruption, kleptocracy, and illicit finance by foreign of- ficials and other foreign persons, including through new anti-corruption action fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NORTON, Mr. SARBANS, Ms. SCALISE, Mr. SCHMITZ, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 403. A bill to repeal a restriction on the use of funds for the Exchange Commission to ensure shareholders of corporations have knowledge of corporate political activity; to the Committee on Fi- nancial Services.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LOWEVELT of New York, Mr. MAST, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CASE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SCHWARTZ, Mr. LARSHIN of Washington, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAUER):

H.R. 404. A bill to improve the manage- ment of driftnet fishing; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 405. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the use of lead ammuni- tion on United States Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 406. A bill to prohibit the sale of shark parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCaul (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CHAROT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 407. A bill to require a notification re- lating to the nationally determined contribution of the United States prior to any submission with respect to such contribution under article 4 of the Paris Agreement to Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Forex-
airs, and in addition to the Com- mittee on Energy and Commerce, for a pe- riod to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McCRAE (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 408. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protégé program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 409. A bill to provide relief for multi-
employer and single employer pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mr. LYNCH, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):


By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 411. A bill to amend the District of Co-
olumbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congres- sional review of new state and local laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 412. A bill to prohibit the payment of death gratuities to the surviving heirs of deceased Members of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 413. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diver-
sity immigration program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 414. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a uniform 5-year post-employment ban on all lobbying by former Members of Congress, to establish a
uniform 2-year post-employment ban on all lobbying by former officers and employees of Congress, to lower the income threshold for applying such ban to former officers and employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 420. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to provide for the United States to become a party to the Paris Agreement; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 422. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit certain donations to Inaugural Committees, to establish a moratorium on contributions to Inaugural Committees, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NORTON, Mr. DERSAULT, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCHAKWOSKY, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SABLON): H.R. 423. A bill to provide for multiemployer and single employer pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 417. A bill to provide that a former Member of Congress or former senior Congressional employee who receives compensation as a lobbyist shall not be eligible for re-irement benefits or certain other Federal benefits if such person is determined to be a lobbyist by the House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. BORRETT, Mr. BUD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MCCINTOCK, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. CAUTHORN, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. McCAlIN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama): H.R. 419. A bill to prohibit United States assessments and voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself, Mr. CHERNOFF OF NEW YORK, Mr. ABBOTT, Mr. BORYSHAK OF NEW YORK, Mr. CAUTHORN, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. McCAlIN, Mr. MURPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. MOORE OF ALABAMA): H.R. 420. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to provide for the United States to become a party to the Paris Agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SABLON (for himself, Mr. McGovern, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALoney OF NEW YORK, Mr. CASALDIA, Mr. PINCHOFF, Mr. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LEE OF CALIFORNIA, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. MOORE OF WISCONSIN, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCHAKWOSKY, and Mr. COURTNEY): H.R. 421. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to treat the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the same manner as Guam is treated; to the Committee on Agriculture.
Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 441. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 442. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 443. A bill to convey land in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. REED, Mrs. CARBON, Mr. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. AXNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERERA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHREIDER, Mr. SCHRICK, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHEERAN, Mr. SHERS, Mr. SLOTKIN, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. STUART, Mr. KEVIN MURPHY of New York, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. MANNING, Mr. MATSU, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCLAUGHLIN, Mr. MCEVOY, Mrs. McNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOUTON, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. NOCTOR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTÉZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARBAUGH, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHACHTER, Ms. SCHAEFFER, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCOTT of North Dakota, Ms. SDLAINE, Mr. STEMBERGER, Mr. STEFANIC, Ms. STEINFELD, Mr. STEWART, Ms. STOCK, Mr. STOKES, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Missouri, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLALIS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TOWES of California, Mr. YATES, Mr. TROY, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VELA, Mr. VALEZUELA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Michigan, Ms. YARMUTH, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. FASCHELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CUERRAL, Mr. CORRERA, Ms. BOURDREUX, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. BUSH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SERRHILL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MURPHY of Florida, and Ms. WATERS);

H.J. Res. 17. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WEBER of Florida, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. STEUKE, Ms. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BACON, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. HARBERSHAGER, Mr. BUD, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. PATRIKICK, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. BICKLE):

H. Con. Res. 7. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASE, Mr. LEFevRE of California, Mr. PAGE of Kentucky, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. McGovern, Ms. FINNER, Mr. CLARK, and Mr. JEFFERY of Michigan):

H. Res. 54. A resolution reaffirming the sense of the House of Representatives that, while the United States must lead the world in preventing further nuclear proliferation, while also reducing and eventually eliminating all nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself and Mr. STEWART of South Carolina):

H. Res. 55. A resolution recognizing the importance of access to comprehensive, high-quality, life-saving medical care for women of all ages to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. WILKES):

H. Res. 56. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the amount of the Members’ Representation Allowance should be increased in response to increasing threats against Members of the House; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. GREIGE of Georgia:

H. Res. 57. A resolution impeaching Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States, for abuse of power by engaging bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BUD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOLDMAN, Mr. GOTHMAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HERR, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMAR, Mr. LONG, Ms. MAST, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CLYDE of Mississippi, Mr. LA TURNER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAHN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. CARL, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. ESTER, Mr. RUFORD, Mr. HERRELL, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. JACKSON):

H. Res. 58. A resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 23rd day of January each year; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. CONER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BARR, Mr. BUSH, Mr. BUSH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BANKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MOORE of Virginia):

H. Res. 59. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Paris Agreement shall have no effect in the United States unless it is designed to ensure the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gases reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and receives the advice and consent to ratification of the United States Senate; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUD, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. BANKS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BAHN, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. HARBERSHAGER, Mr. THOMSON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOHAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. BOEHRNT, Mr. AUGUST SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CAREY of Missouri, Mr. HODGSON of Ohio, Mr. LATTURER, Mr. GOTHMAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HARTZLER, Mr. CARL, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mrs. ROSENDALE, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RUTERFORD, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr.  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

January 21, 2021

WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. HERRELL;

H. Res. 60. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that January 22, 2021, be formally acknowledged as “National Sanctity of Life Day”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Ms. VAISON COLEMAN introduced a bill (H.R. 445) for the relief of Yasmine Fabiola Juarez Coyoy; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H. R. 373. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H. R. 374. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”; and

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 (Appropriations Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power of the purse and ensures “No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.”

By Mr. BOEBERT:

H. R. 375. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (The Property Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”, and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power “To dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States”; and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”

By the Mrs. BOEBERT:

H. R. 376. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (Treaty Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants the President the power “to make treaties, so long as two-thirds of the Senate give advice and consent in order to ratify said treaty(s)”; and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”; and

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 (Appropriations Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power of the purse and ensures “No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.”

By Mr. AARRINGTON:

H. R. 377. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. AARRINGTON:

H. R. 378. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. BARRAGAN:

H. R. 379. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H. R. 380. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H. R. 381. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H. R. 382. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H. R. 383. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H. R. 384. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H. R. 385. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BROWN:

H. R. 386. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BUDD:

H. R. 387. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18).

By Mr. CASE:

H. R. 388. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CASE:

H. R. 389. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8, Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H. R. 390. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. COHEN:

H. R. 391. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H. R. 392. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H. R. 393. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H. R. 394. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GABARINO:

H. R. 395. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:


By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H. R. 396. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:


By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H. R. 397. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H. R. 398. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. HASPTINGS:

H. R. 399. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H. R. 400. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H. R. 401. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, 4 and 11-16.

By Mr. KEATING:

H. R. 402. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H. R. 403. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LIEU:

H. R. 404. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LIEU:

H. R. 405. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LIEU:

H. R. 406. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
H. R. 407. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority “To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof”
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 418. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority “To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof”
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 419. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. ROY:
H. R. 420. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 421. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Ms. SCANLON:
H. R. 422. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII.
By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:
H. R. 423. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. SIRES:
H. R. 424. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. STANTON:
H. R. 425. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. STEUBE:
H. R. 426. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority “To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof”
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 427. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;
To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
To provide and maintain a Navy;
To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. ROY:
H. R. 430. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States,
By Mr. ROY:
H. R. 431. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution,
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 432. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution,
By Mr. SIRES:
H. R. 433. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States,
By Mr. ROY:
H. R. 434. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. ROY:
H. R. 435. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution,
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 436. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution,
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 437. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States,
By Mr. ROY:
H. R. 438. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution,
By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 439. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States,
By Mr. ROY:
H. R. 440. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution,
By Mr. POSEY:
To provide and maintain a Navy;
To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise exclusive Legislation over all Places purchased by the United States from the Indians for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 429.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise exclusive Legislation over all Places purchased by the United States from the Indians for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 430.

January 21, 2021

H.R. 429.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise exclusive Legislation over all Places purchased by the United States from the Indians for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 430.

January 21, 2021

H.R. 431.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise exclusive Legislation over all Places purchased by the United States from the Indians for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 430.

January 21, 2021

H.R. 432.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise exclusive Legislation over all Places purchased by the United States from the Indians for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 430.

January 21, 2021

H.R. 433.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise exclusive Legislation over all Places purchased by the United States from the Indians for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. TRONE:
H.R. 430.

January 21, 2021

H.R. 434.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise exclusive Legislation over all Places purchased by the United States from the Indians for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. TRONE:
H.R. 430.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States:**

**By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:**

H.R. 435. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have Power... to... Taxation without Representation in Congress shall be prohibited in any State.
The Senate met at noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:
Let us pray.
Almighty God, You are our shelter from the storm. Keep us from shame.
Lord, You often answer prayers in mysterious ways. As the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are Your thoughts higher than our contemplation.
Inspire our Senators to be so sensitive to Your Spirit that they can recognize Your gentle nudge. Make them glad that You are near.
Lord, equip our lawmakers with wisdom and foresight for these challenging times. May Your peace go with them as they seek to do Your will.
We pray in Your strong 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is nice to see you back in that position. Yesterday, Mr. President, we began a new chapter in the history of our Nation. On the same steps stormed by domestic terrorists 2 weeks ago, we held a ceremony to the enduring power of our democracy. It was a symbol to the world that America is back and a message to those domestic terrorists that they will never prevail.

Traditionally, the Senate has confirmed several national security nominees for an incoming administration during their first few days. Even as power changes hands from one administration to the other, the work of keeping our Nation safe must not be paused or be disrupted. Foreign adversaries will seek to exploit this period of transition, and we cannot allow America’s military, intelligence, and national security policy to be disrupted by staffing delays.

In 2017, President Trump had his Defense Secretary and Secretary of Homeland Security in place on Inauguration Day. President Biden deserves his national security team in place as soon as possible, as well as key officials in charge of responding to the current health and economic crises. With the cooperation of our Republican colleagues, we can and should confirm the Secretaries of Defense, State, Homeland Security, and Treasury without much delay.

While national security is paramount, I would remind my colleagues that we are in the middle of an economic crisis. The sooner we confirm President Biden’s Cabinet, the better.

And so, as we begin the process of bringing our country back together, let the first week of this Congress be a collaboration between our two parties to confirm President Biden’s Cabinet.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inaugural Ceremony proceedings be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the proceedings of the Inaugural Ceremony were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INAUGURAL CEREMONY
Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., January 20, 2021, 10:33 a.m.
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark A. Milley, assembled on the President’s platform.

Leadership of the United States Senate: President pro tempore emeritus, the Honorable Patrick Leahy, and Mrs. Marcelle Leahy; Democratic whip, the Honorable Dick Durbin of Illinois; majority whip, the Honorable John Thune, and Mrs. Kimberley Thune; Democratic leader, the Honorable Chuck Schumer, and Mrs. Iris Weinshall Scherzer; President pro tempore of the Senate, the Honorable Mitch McConnell, and Ms. Jennifer Hagen assembles on the President’s platform.

Former Vice President, the Honorable Dan Quayle, assembled on the President’s platform.

The 42nd President of the United States, the Honorable William J. Clinton, and the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton assembled on the President’s platform.

The leaders of the United States, the Honorable George W. Bush, and Mrs. Laura Bush assembled on the President’s platform.

The 44th President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama, and Mrs. Michelle Obama assembled on the President’s platform.

The Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr., and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court assembled on the President’s platform.

The children of Vice President-Elect Harris and Mr. Douglass Emhoff, Cole Mackin Emhoff and Ella Rose Emhoff, assembled on the President’s platform.

The children of President-Elect Biden, Robert Hunter Biden II and Ashley Blazer Biden and the grandchildren of the President-elect, assembled on the President’s platform.

Accompanying the Vice President: The Secretary of the Senate, the Honorable Julie Adams; and Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, Catherine Szpindor, assembled on the President’s platform.

The Vice President of the United States, the Honorable Michael R. Pence, and Mrs. Karen Pence assembled on the President’s platform.

Accompanying the Vice President-elect: The Chief of Inaugural Ceremonies, Maria Miller Lohmeyer; the Acting Deputy House Sergeant at Arms, Kevin Grubbs; and the Acting Deputy Senate Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police Officer, PFC Eugene O. Goodman, assembled on the President’s platform.

The Vice President-elect of the United States, Kamala Devi Harris, and Mr. Douglass Emhoff assembled on the President’s platform.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: staff representative Alexander Gourdin Dicicco, accompanying the House Republican leader, the Honorable Kevin McCarthy; staff representative Bridget Brennan, accompanying House majority leader, the Honorable Steny Hoyer, and Ms. Yvette Lewis; staff representative Kate Knudsen, accompanying Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, and Mr. Paul Pelosi; staff representative Lindsey Kerr, accompanying the Honorable Amy Kobuchar and Mr. John Bessler; staff representative Stefanie Hagard Muchow, accompanying Senate majority leader, the Honorable Chuck Schumer; staff representative Mitch McConnell, accompanying the Honorable Elaine L. Chao; and staff representative Rachelle Graves Schroeder, accompanying the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, the Honorable Roy Blunt, and Mrs. Abigail Blunt, assembled on the President’s platform.

Accompanying the President-elect, the staff director of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Fitzhugh Liddell IV, and House Sergeant at Arms, Tim Blodgett; and the Acting Senate Sergeant at Arms, Jennifer Hemmingsway, assembled on the President’s platform.

The President-elect of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Dr. Jill Biden assembled on the President’s platform.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Vice President Pence, Mr. President-elect, Madam Vice President-elect, Members of Congress and the judicial branch, our Presidents and First Ladies, Vice Presidents, leaders from abroad, and a whole bunch of Bidens, America, welcome to the 59th Presidential Inauguration, where in just a few moments Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will take their solemn oaths.

This ceremony is the culmination of 244 years of a democracy. It is a moment when the leaders of this nation, by will of the people, promise to be faithful to our Constitution, to cherish it, and defend it. It is a moment when they become, as we all should be, guardians of our democracy.

Have we become too jaded, too accustomed to the ritual of the passing of the torch of democracy to truly appreciate what a blessing and a privilege it is to witness this moment? I think not.

Two weeks ago, when an angry, violent mob staged an insurrection and desecrated this temple of our democracy, it awakened us to our responsibilities as Americans. This is the day when our democracy picks itself up, unbreakable and does what America always does: It gets up, walks forward as a nation, under God, indissoluble with liberty and justice for all.

(Applause.)

This conveyance of a sacred trust between our leaders and our people takes place in front of this shining Capitol dome for a reason. When Abraham Lincoln gave his first inaugural address in front of this Capitol, the dome was only partially constructed, braced by ropes of steel. He promised he would finish it. He promised that he would end the Civil War. To those critics, he replied, “If the people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign we intend the Union shall go on forever.”

Generations of Americans gave their lives to preserve our Republic in this place. Great legislation to protect civil rights and economic security and lead the world was debated and crafted under this dome. Now, it falls on all of us—not just the two leaders we are inaugurating today—to take up the torch and work together, as the Constitution envisions. Once again, we renew our commitment to our determined democracy, forging a more perfect union.

Theme for this Inauguration, “Our Determined Democracy: Forging a more perfect union,” was announced by the joint committee before the election with the belief that the United States can only fulfill its promise and set an example for others if we are always working to be better than we were before.

The Constitution established that determined democracy with its first three words, declaring the people as the source of the government power to legislate to protect civil and economic security and lead the world was debated and crafted under this dome. Now, it falls on all of us—not just the two leaders we are inaugurating today—to take up the torch of our democratic ideal. The results of political arcane but as an instrument for good.

We pledge today never to take our democracy for granted, as we celebrate its remarkable resilience and its grit. We celebrate the very people doing extraordinary things for our Nation, the doctors and nurses on the frontline of this pandemic, the officers in the Capitol, a new generation never giving up hope for justice.

We celebrate a new President, Joe Biden, who vows to restore the soul of America and cross the river of our divides to a higher plane.

We celebrate our first African-American, first woman in any major party as Vice President, Kamala Harris, who stands on the shoulders of so many on this platform who have forged the way to this day. When she becomes Commander-in-Chief, boys and girls across the world will know that anything and everything is possible.

In the end, that is America; our democracy, a country of so much good. Today, on these Capitol steps and before this glorious field of flags, we re dedicate ourselves to its covenant.

Thank you.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I should have known when Senator Kobuchar got involved, at least, there would be a touch of snow up here this morning. Of all the things we had considered, I don’t think there was a touch of snow on my agenda until I walked out the door a moment ago.

But thank you, Senator Kobuchar, and thanks to the other members of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Inauguration as we officially begin the 59th inaugural ceremony. I also want to thank the joint committee staff and our partners, particularly our security partners, for the way they have dealt with unprecedented circumstances.

When I chaired the inauguration 4 years ago, I shared President Reagan’s 1981 description of this event as “commonplace” and “unexceptional,” and I think not because we have done it every 4 years since 1789; it is miraculous because we have done it every 4 years since 1789. Americans have celebrated this ceremony for the very first time, during depression, and now during pandemic.

Once again, all three branches of our government come together to choose a new president, a new leader. We have seen extraordinary things for our Nation, the doc

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and will watch what we do here. Our govern-
ment comes together. The Congress and the
courts join the transition of Executive re-
 sponsibility. One political party is more
pleased today and on every inaugural day
than the other. But this is not a moment of
division; it is a moment of unification. A
new administration begins and brings with
it a new gaze, as if that, our national
debate goes forward, and a determined
democracy will continue to be essential in
pursuit of a more perfect union and a better
future for all Americans. What a privilege
for me to join you today.

Thank you.

(Appause.)

I am pleased to call to the podium a long-
time friend of the President-elect and his
family, Father Leo O’Donovan, to lead us in
an invocation.

Please stand if you are able and remain
standing for the national anthem and the
pledge to our flag.

Father O’DONOVAN. Gracious and mer-
ciful God, at this sacred time, we come
before you in need, indeed on our knees. But we
come still more with hope and with our eyes
raised anew to the vision of a more perfect
union in our land, a union of all our citizens
to promote the general welfare and secure the
blessings of liberty to ourselves and our
posterity.

We are a people of many races, creeds,
and colors, national backgrounds, cultures, and
styles. We are a people of numerous and
much vaster than when Archbishop John
Carroll wrote his prayer for the inauguration
of George Washington 232 years ago.

Archbishop Carroll prayed that You, a Cre-
ator of all, would “assist with Your Holy
Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of
these United States and his administration
may be conducted in righteousness and be
eminently useful to Your people.”

Today, we confess our past failures to live
according to the precepts of equal justice,
liberation, and freedom for all; yet we resolutely
commit still more now to renewing the vi-
sion, to caring for one another in word and
deed, especially the least fortunate among
us, and so becoming a light for the world.

There is a power in each and every one of
us that lives by turning to every other one of
us, a trust to cherish and preserve and
stand by others and, above all, those
most in need. It is called love, and its path
is to give ever more of itself. Today, it is
called American patriotism, borne not
of power and privilege, but of care for the com-
mon good, with malice toward none and with
charity for all.

For our new President, we beg of you the
wisdom Solomon sought when he knelt be-
fore you and prayed for an understanding
heart so that “I can govern your people . . .
and know the difference between right and
wrong.”

We trust in the counsel of the letter of James.

In any of you lacks wisdom, you should
ask God, who gives generously to all without
finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Pope Francis has reminded us how impor-
tant it is to dream together. “By ourselves,”
he wrote, “we risk seeing mirages, things
that are not there. But dreams, on the other
hand, are built together.”

Be with us, Holy Mystery of Love, as we
dream together. Help us under our new
President and Vice President to fulfill
restore our dream, and invest it with peace
and justice and the joy that is the overfl
ow of love.

To you, glory of Your name forever, Amen.

(Appause.)

The President, Chief Justice Roberts,
Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi,
Leader McConnell, Vice President
Pence, and my distinguished guests, my
fellow Americans, this is America’s day.
This is democracy’s day—a day of history
and hope, of renewal and resolve.

Through a crucible for the ages, America
has been tested anew, and America has risen
to the challenge. Today, we celebrate the tri-
umph not of a candidate but of a cause, the
cause of democracy. The people—the will of
the people—has been heard, and the will of
the people has been heeded.

We have learned that democracy is
precious, democracy is fragile, and at this
hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.

(Appause.)

Now, on a hallowed ground, where just a
few days ago violence sought to shake
the Capitol’s very foundation, we come together
as one Nation under God, indivisible, to
carry out the peaceful transfer of power as
we have for more than two centuries.

As we look ahead in our uniquely Amer-
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As we look ahead in our uniquely Amer-
ican and restless, bold, optimistic,
that racism, nativism, fear, and demonization have long torn us apart. The battle is perennial, and victory is never assured.

Through Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, and through struggle, strife, and setbacks, our better angels have always prevailed. In each of these moments, enough of us—enough of us—have come together and fought for all of us forward, and we can do that now.

History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity. We can see each other not as adversaries, but as neighbors. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature. For without unity there is no peace, only bitterness andetry; no progress, only exhausting outrage; and no nation, only a state of chaos. This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward, and we must meet this moment as the United States of America.

If we do that, I guarantee you will not fail. We have never, ever, ever failed in America when we have acted together. So, today, at this time, in this place, let’s start afresh—all of us. Let’s begin to listen to one another again, hear one another, see one another, and show respect to one another. Politics doesn’t have to be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Every moment doesn’t have to be a cause for total war, and we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manmade.

(Applause.)

My fellow Americans, we have to be different than this. America has to be better than this, and I believe America is so much better than this. Just look around. Here we stand in the shadow of the Capitol dome, as was mentioned earlier, completed amid the Civil War. And itself was hanging in the balance; yet we endured. We prevailed.

Here we stand, looking out on the great Mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream. Here we stand, where 108 years ago, at another inaugural, thousands of protesters tried to block brave women marching for the right to vote. Today, we mark the swearing in of the first woman in American history elected to national office, Vice President Kamala Harris. Don’t tell me things can’t change.

(Applause.)

We are, across the Potomac from Arlington Cemetery, where heroes of the last full measure of devotion rest in eternal peace. Here we stand, just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people, to stop the work of our democracy, and to drive us from this sacred ground. It did not happen. It will never happen, not today, not tomorrow, not ever—never.

(Applause.)

To all those who supported our campaign, I am humbled by the faith you placed in us. To all who did not support us, let me say this: Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart. If you say this: Hear me clearly. Disagreement must not lead to disunion, and I pledge this to you: I will defend the truth and defend the lies.

(Applause.)

I understand that many of my fellow Americans view the future with fear and trepidation. I understand they worry about their jobs, I understand, like my dad, they lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling, wondering: Can I keep my healthcare? Can I pay my mortgage? Thinking about their families and about what comes next. I promise you, I get it.

The answer is not to turn inward and to retreat into competing factions, distrust those who don’t look like you or sound like you. We all get the same news from the same sources you do. We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We are not a collection of subgroups. Instead of hardening our hearts, if we show a little tolerance and humility, and if we are willing to stand in the other person’s shoes, as my mom would say. Just for a moment, stand in their shoes.

Because here is the thing about life: There is no accounting for what fate will deal you. Some days, you need a hand. And there are other days when we are called to lend a hand. That is how it has to be. That is what we do for one another. If we are this way, our country will be more ready for the future, and we can still disagree.

My fellow Americans, in the work ahead of us, we are going to need each other. We need all our strength to persevere through this dark winter. We are entering what may be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus. We must set aside politics and finally face this pandemic as one Nation— one Nation.

(Applause.)

And I promise you this, as the Bible says: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” We will get through this together.

(Applause.)

Look, folks, all my colleagues I serve with, I won’t tell you what it feels like to be sworn in, but I pledge this to you: You will have joined the unfolding story of our great Nation. If we do this, then when our days are through, our children and our children’s children will say of us: They gave their best, they did their duty, they healed a broken land.

(Applause.)

My fellow Americans, I close today where I began, with a sacred oath. Before God and all of you, I give you my word. I will always level with you. I will defend the Constitution. I will defend our democracy. I will defend America, and I will give all—all of you—keep everything I do in your service, thinking not of power but of possibilities, not of personal interest but of public good. And together, we shall write an American story of hope, not fear; of unity, not division; of light, not darkness; a story of decency and dignity, love and harmony, respect and goodness—may this be the story that guides the story—the story that inspires us, and the story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the call of destiny. We, the United States of America, I promise you, let us place our trust in the power of truth and reason, in the power of love, defined by the common objects of their love, by the common objects of their love, defined by the common objects of their love. What are the common objects we, as Americans, love that define us as Americans? I think we know: opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect, honor, and, yes, the truth.

Recent weeks and months have taught us a lesson: the truth doesn’t have to be a cause for total war, and we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manmade. Every disagreement doesn’t have to be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Facts don’t have to be a cause for total war, and we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manmade.

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(Applause.)

We are a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress, and security.

Look, you all know we have been through so much in this Nation. In my first act as President, I would like to ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer. Remember all those who we lost in this past year to the pandemic, those 400,000 fellow Americans—moments, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. We will honor them by becoming the people and the Nation we know we can and should be. I ask you, let us say a silent prayer for those who have lost their lives and those left behind and for our country.

(Moment of silence.)

Amen.

Folks, this is a time of testing. We face an attack on our democracy and on truth, a rage and resentment growing in the nation, a systemic racism, a climate in crisis, and America’s role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways. The fact is all at once, presenting this Nation with one of the gravest responsibilities we have had.

So, we are going to step up, all of us. Are we going to step up, all of us? It is time for boldness, for there is so much to do. And this is certain: I promise you, we will be judged, judged by history, by how we respond to the crises of our era. Will we rise to the occasion the question. Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations to the Dream? To a new and better world to our children?

I believe we must. I am sure you do as well. I believe we will. When we do, we will write the next great chapter in the history of the United States of America—the American story—a story that might sound something like a song that means a lot to me. It is called the American Anthem. There is one verse that stands out, at least for me, and it goes like this:

The work and prayers of centuries have brought us to this day, which shall be our legacy, what will our children say? Let me know in my heart when my days are through. America, America, I gave my best to you.

Let us add our own work and prayers to the unfolding story of our great Nation. If we do this, then when our days are through, our children and our children’s children will say of us: They gave their best, they did their duty, they healed a broken land.

(Applause.)

Mr. BLUNT. It is hard not to be reminded of President Obama singing that same song at the Mother Emanuel Church, a song that in our country is as close to both poetry and prayer as we could possibly come, and we are going to finish with those two things.

Mr. GORMAN. Mr. President, Dr. Biden, Madam Vice President, Mr. Emhoff, Americans, and the world:

When day comes we ask ourselves,
How could catastrophe possibly

So while once we asked,

to offer hope and laughter to ourselves

of such a terrifying hour

We feared at its inception

history has its eyes on us

In this truth

it can never be permanently defeated

But while democracy can be periodically de-

And this effort very nearly succeeded

rather than share it

We've seen a force that would shatter our na-

it's the past we step into and how we repair

And what stands before us

but because we will never again sow division

Not because we will never again know defeat

that everyone shall sit under their own vine

but simply unfinished

because we will not learn hatred anymore. We will lie down in peace

and not make our neighbors afraid.

In You, oh, God, we discover our humanity, and in your humanity we discover our com-

Beyond the difference of color, creed, origin, political party, ideology, geog-

y, and personal preferences, we will be-

come greater stewards of our environment, preserving the land, reaping from it a sus-

tainable harvest, and securing its wonder and miracle-giving power for generations to come.

This is our benediction, that from these hallowed grounds where slaves labored to build this shrine and citadel to liberty and democracy, let us all acknowledge—from the indigenous Native Americans to those who recently received their citizenship, from the African American to those whose foreparents came from Europe and every corner of the globe, from the wealthy to those struggling to make it, from every human being, regard-

les of their choices—that this is our coun-

As such, teach us, oh, God. As such, teach

us, oh, God, to live in it, love it, be healed in it, and reconcile to one another in it, less we miss kingdom's goal.

To Your glory, majesty, dominion, and power forever, hallelujah. Glory hallelujah, in the strong Name of our collective faith. Amen.

(Performance of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" by the U.S. Marine Band.)

(Performance of "Let Freedom Ring" by the U.S. Marine Band.)

(The Inaugural Ceremony was concluded at 12:33 p.m.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. BOOKER. You are welcome.

Mr. SCHUMER. A new politeness from the Chair.

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 reconvened.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Re-

publican leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for this 117th Congress, the American people chose an evenly split Senate—50

Republicans and 50 Democrats. With the election of Vice President Harris, that means the Democratic leader will

act as majority leader.

So I want to congratulate my col-

league from New York. His pride and emotion were palpable yesterday as this self-described "kid from Brooklyn

and son of a housewife" became the first Jewish Member of Congress to lead either Chamber—a historic milestone.
Now, the Senate has handled an even split before. Twenty years ago, faced with the same scenario, the two leaders brokered a power-sharing agreement so the institution could function smoothly.

The Democratic leader and I are discussing a similar agreement now. I have been heartened to hear my colleague say he wants the same rules from the 2000s to apply today, because, certainly, 20 years ago there was no talk—none whatsoever—of tearing down longstanding minority rights on legislation.

The legislative filibuster is a crucial part of the Senate. Leading Democrats, like President Biden himself, have long defended it. Democrats themselves just spent 6 years using it, literally, to block bills from Senator Tim Scott’s police reform to coronavirus relief.

And less than 4 years ago, when it was Republicans who held the Senate, the House, and the Presidency, 27 current senators plus Vice President Harris signed a letter insisting this the House, and the Presidency, 27 cur-

but if and when our Democratic friends depart from common sense, when they retreat from common ground or their proposals harm the common good, then we will use the power the American people have given us to push for what we think is right.

On the Biden administration’s very first day, it took several big steps in the wrong direction. The President re-
tered the failed Paris climate agree-
ment, a terrible bargain that would set us up to self-inflict major economic pain on working American families while China or Russia would honor their commitments. In fact, the United States has already been reducing carbon emissions, while China and other nations in the agree-

So if the talk of unity and common ground is to have meaning and, cer-
tainly, from 20 years ago are to be our guide, then I cannot imagine the Democratic leader would rather hold up the power-sharing agreement than simply reaffirm that his side won’t be breaking this standing rule.

I appreciate our ongoing, good-faith discussions and look forward to finding the solution together.

Our side takes a great deal of pride in the accomplishments that three con-

And now, even as voters chose PRESiDENT BIDEN for the White House, they simulta-

For all the talk about norms within the institution could function smooth-

And new, even as voters chose PRESiDENT BIDEN for the White House, they simulta-

The 2020 election was as far from a sweeping mandate for ideological transformation as any election we have seen in modern history. The American people stunned the so-called experts with the number of Republicans they sent to the House and to the Senate to make sure commonsense conservative values have a powerful say in the gov-

So our side is ready to share ideas and work with the Biden administra-

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the ab-

The majority whip.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am happy to be standing here today on the Senate floor during an exciting week and one that really provides us with hope for the future. I welcome Presi-

We can never forget that America is still in the midst of a deadly pandemic. Tragically, we lost over 400,000 Ameri-

As we continue to try to stop the spread of this pandemic, I am glad that the vaccine rollout has been able to help some in my State—537,000 people in Illinois have received vaccines. It is a refreshing and long overdue sight to have the President and White House fully engaged in addressing this pan-

On his first day yesterday, President Biden created an office to coordinate a national response to the pandemic. Today, he is outlining a strong plan to provide a national strategy to liberate us from this threat.

I must say that I was disappointed in the transition when at first President Trump refused to acknowledge that he lost the election. And then, when the excuses dragged their feet when it came to informing the Biden administration of the status quo in America. Thus,
today, we learn that we were not as prepared as we should have been when it came to distributing the vaccines that were being manufactured across this country. Now we almost have to start from zero to find a way to meet President Biden’s challenge of vaccinating 100 million Americans vaccinated in the first 100 days that he is in office. I pray that he is successful. We should do everything in our power on both sides of the aisle to give him the resources and the cooperation he needs.

The same things that will be done by the Biden administration on COVID-19 is lengthy and impressive. The President, on the first day, established a White House COVID-19 Response Office and Coordinator, as I mentioned, required mask wearing and social distancing in Federal facilities, and rejoined the World Health Organization.

Today, President Biden also unveiled a national strategy to leverage Federal resources. It outlines detailed plans for a comprehensive vaccination strategy. If there was cheering—and there should have been—for the Warp Speed project developing successful vaccines in a short period of time, it was followed by some doubt that even with these vaccines and the knowledge of how to make them, we are not producing them in the quantities necessary, and we are not addressing the logistics of spreading these vaccines across America where they are needed the most.

The President is setting out to restore trust by leading with experts for public outreach, and he is relying on science. That is refreshing. It is hard to imagine something that basic is as refreshing as it is. He is providing resources and guidance to reopen most K–8 schools in 100 days. Wouldn’t that be a blessing? There isn’t a parent or grandparent in this country who won’t check their calendar for the next day to dress supply gaps and State capacity. We are finding them virtually all across the United States. And he is focusing on vulnerable populations, including those in long-term care facilities and communities of color.

To implement this plan, President Biden will sign Executive orders today to direct agencies to exercise all authorities, including the Defense Production Act, to accelerate the manufacture of vaccines, testing, and medical supplies. Let me say, I have never understood why President Trump refused to use this Defense Production Act to its full capacity, to use his leadership as President to marshal the resources of production and distribution of vaccines and other absolutely necessary medical devices.

President Biden also is directing FEMA to increase Federal reimbursement to States from 75 to 100 percent for emergency supplies, such as PPE, and National Guard personnel. He is establishing a Healthy Equity Task Force to provide recommendations on how to allocate and address racial and ethnic disparities that have been magnified by this crisis.

We know the economic damage of this virus continues to linger. Nearly one in four people in my State in rentals are behind on rent, and one in three households reports having difficulty just covering usual household expenses.

We continue to see historic numbers of Americans filing for unemployment, including more than 100,000 people in Illinois who applied for unemployment last week. But to fully address the health and economic toll of the pandemic, Congress needs to build upon the work we did in December and heed the call of the $1.9 trillion plan that President Biden outlined last week.

I was a part of a bipartisan group of Senators who met several months ago. We talked about following on the CARES Act with some measure of COVID relief. We proposed a plan of $900 billion, which the leaders on both sides of the aisle and the White House, and they negotiated further. That resulted in the measure we passed just a few days ago. But make no mistake, that was not the end of this pandemic. And we envision that it would be. This was done on a temporary emergency basis to cover the first quarter; that is, the first 3 months of this calendar year. I pray that this pandemic and all of the problems it brought with it are gone, but I doubt that it will happen in the next 3 months.

We have more work to do, and President Biden knows it. I think we all do. We need to come together again on a bipartisan basis.

The first CARES Act passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to nothing. There were no dissenting votes. The second measure, I believe, had 91 or 92 votes in favor of it. So we have shown real bipartisan support. We can’t quit on this challenge.

Janet Yellen has been named as the Treasury Secretary designate by President Biden. I had a conversation with her 2 weeks ago. We talked about the perilous state of the economy. It is naive for us to believe that the worst is behind us. We have to face the reality that we may have darker days ahead, and we have to be prepared to deal with them—first, with the pandemic and, second, with the economy. Even the Chairman of the Federal Reserve has encouraged us not to take our foot off the accelerator, lest we lapse into a recession or worse.

Let’s take this seriously. Let’s help the businesses, help the workers, help the families, and do our best to get this economy back on its feet.

Illinois has spent $543 million in our health departments to expand testing and vaccine delivery from the December package. But with half a million people vaccinated so far in a State of 13 million, more resources and support are needed. That means providing the $20 billion for vaccine distribution and $50 billion for testing that President Biden has asked for as part of his rescue package so we can finally, once and for all, crush this virus, get the economy back on its feet, and get our kids back in school.

President Biden is investing in the health workforce, such as through a bill I have introduced with Senator MARCO RUBIO, Republican of Florida, to provide scholarship and loan repayment through the National Health Service Corps for doctors and nurses to serve in underserved communities with a shortage of providers.

I say to the Presiding Officer, I am sure you are personally aware that there are fewer African-American doctors in the United States today than there were 10 years ago. I am sorry to report that. It should be just the opposite. We should have so many more, for many reasons, not the least of which is to overcome health inequity.

This scholarship program that Senator Rubio and I have introduced builds on the model of the National Health Service Corps, which tracks young doctors to come and serve in underserved areas and to help underserved populations, and then helps pay off their medical school loans. We take this approach: Keep that; it is good. Expand it where we can, but let’s look at another aspect. What if we provided scholarship assistance and really directed it toward minority candidates to become doctors and dentists and nurses and healthcare professionals? All of those aspects would be encouraged if people knew that they had a scholarship through the National Health Service and the promise that they would serve where they were needed after they graduated. We hope this will be included in another measure that is passed in the near future.

The President’s plan sets out additional relief measures that will float to those who need it, and an economic recovery encouraged by making the child tax credit fully refundable. That is going to benefit 1 million kids in my State.

Also, the Biden plan aims to safely open schools, businesses, and travel while protecting workers in these areas and committing to protecting our most vulnerable populations.

I am ready to continue pushing for COVID relief. The job isn’t finished by any means. We must provide American families and workers the tools they need to survive in this difficult economic time.

As Chair Yellen said earlier this week, “Without further action, we risk a longer, more painful recession now—and long-term scarring of the economy later.”

Let’s do this, America. Let’s do it together. Let’s let the spirit of unity that we saw on the West Front of the Capitol yesterday bring us together here in the Senate and the House in a joint effort to help the American people with the resources they need to survive this pandemic and this lengthy financial hardship.
I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of the quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeds to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. King). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to start by congratulating President Biden and Vice President Harris, who took office yesterday. We have a team of former Senators in the White House. Yesterday was a hopeful day. The Capitol Building, so recently besieged by violence and lawlessness, resumed its rightful place as the seat of our democracy and backdrop for the peaceful transfer of power from one President to the next that is a hallmark of our system of government. The faith of many Americans has been shaken in recent weeks. But yesterday reminded us that our democracy still stands and our Nation endures—bruised, maybe, but unbroken.

I also want to express my profound gratitude to the Capitol Police officers and other law enforcement who, though outnumbered and overrun, defended this Capitol on January 6, and to the soldiers and the law enforcement who have guarded this building in the days since. We live in peace and freedom because of the service and sacrifice of our military and our police officers.

After the election of November, President Biden gave a victory speech in which he pledged to be “a President who seeks not to divide, but to unify. Who doesn’t see Red and Blue states, but a United States. And who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of those who voted for Trump.”

He reiterated that commitment in yesterday’s speech, stating: “On this January day, my whole soul is in this: Bringing America together, unifying our people, unifying our nation.” “That is what we need right now—a President who will unite us. If President Biden can truly be a President who governs for all Americans, who respects all Americans, and who works to win the confidence of the whole people, he will have done our Nation a great service.

And I do think President Biden is capable of doing this, but I do want to sound a cautionary note. It is common to talk about unity at Presidential inaugurations. But all too often that commitment to unity is forgotten—by the President or by the members of his party. I hope this commitment will be backed up with action and that Democratic leaders in Congress will embrace the Biden agenda. That means opposing those Americans who didn’t vote for President Biden as well as those who did.

It means working together to confront our Nation’s challenges, instead of adopting an “our way or the highway” approach. It means preserving minority rights in the Senate when it comes to legislation, the heart—of what makes the Senate special and something Republicans, I might add, defended during our time in the majority.

For the President, it means nominating individuals who represent a majority of Americans, not the far left, stating some of the most hopeful actions from President Biden. Several of his nominees for important posts, while perhaps not those whom I would have chosen, are public servants whom I believe will serve our country well in positions like Director of National Intelligence, whom we voted on yesterday. And the President has demonstrated both his leadership and his concern for all Americans by prioritizing the pandemic and focusing on getting vaccines to Americans.

But there have been troubling things as well. While the President has nominated some mainstream candidates, other nominations raise serious concerns on issues like overregulation of the economy and life and conscience protections.

While I applaud the President’s focus on the pandemic, I am concerned that a number of the measures in his pandemic relief proposal are heavily partisan—and, certainly, not things that should be rushed through the Congress without serious consideration of the long-term impact they would have on our economy and American families.

If there was any mandate given in this election, it was a mandate for moderation. A historic number of Americans voted for President Biden, but a historic number voted for President Trump as well. Democrats lost seats in the House of Representatives, and the Senate is evenly divided.

I hope that Democrat leaders and the President will remember that and not allow the far left, which has sought to hijack the Democratic Party in recent years, to determine their agenda. We have a chance—for a new day here in this country, and I believe that President Biden is committed to leading us there.

I pray that that commitment will endure and that we can spend the next months and years working together, legislating together, and ensuring the voices of all Americans are respected and heard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, there have been few other times in American history when the need for economic growth through strategic, responsible, pro-business policies has been as great as it today. Nothing is more important to a family than a good-paying job. That is where the American dream begins.

Today, as our Nation fights to overcome the horrendous health and economic impacts of COVID-19, we must balance our approach. We have to protect and help those Americans who have been hurt by this crisis, support commonsense public health policies and an aggressive vaccine distribution effort, while also keeping businesses open, incentivizing future growth of businesses, large and small, to bring America back together.

We also need to continue cutting regulations to make it easier for businesses to operate and for entrepreneurs to create jobs.

President Biden and his Cabinet have the important task of revitalizing our economy amid one of our Nation’s worst economic crises. In my 8 years as Governor of Florida, we balanced our budget each year, returned over $350 billion to taxpayers, paid off one-third of our State debt, and Florida companies added nearly 1.7 million jobs. But instead of looking to innovation and approving policies of States like Florida that will create jobs and help our small businesses, the Biden administration is already making promises to go in the opposite direction—promises that are being championed by his nominee for Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen.

Let me be clear. I support targeted relief to help our small businesses and individuals who are hurting because of the coronavirus. With the start of a new administration, I was hoping to hear some fresh, new ideas on how to accomplish our shared goal of addressing this crisis. But that is not what we are hearing from the Biden administration. Their answer is the same as it always has been for Democrats: more government, more spending, higher taxes, and higher deficits.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, our economy is vast and diverse. As a state, Florida’s economy has 5 million businesses, and so many of them rely on good-paying jobs. That is why the American dream begins.

Today, as our Nation fights to overcome the horrendous health and economic impacts of COVID-19, we must balance our approach. We have to protect and help those Americans who have been hurt by this crisis, support commonsense public health policies and an aggressive vaccine distribution effort, while also keeping businesses open, incentivizing future growth of businesses, large and small, to bring America back together.

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I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.
taxes. Since we were both elected, families and businesses have increasingly left New York for lower taxes, better schools, better roads, and warmer weather in Florida.

Asking taxpayers to bail out failed liberal States like New York and Illinois and save them from their own bad decisions isn’t fair to the taxpayers in fiscally responsible States like Florida. After all, many Florida taxpayers left New York because of Cuomo’s tax policy.

It is the same with Congress. Congress has already allocated more than $4.5 trillion to address this crisis. Think about it. We just passed a nearly $1 trillion relief package 4 weeks ago. This is all borrowed money. The Federal Government doesn’t have savings for a rainy day, and we still don’t know how much money is unspent from the previous coronavirus relief packages. How can we possibly justify spending more money right now? We don’t even know what we might need to spend money on.

And for States like California, we know they don’t need it. California’s tax revenues for this fiscal year is running $9 billion, or 18 percent, above projections. In 2019 California’s tax revenue in October was $1 billion—15 percent higher than in the previous October, and sales taxes were up 9.2 percent. For the last 4 months, overall revenue in California has exceeded spring forecasts and projections by 20 percent collections. But that hasn’t kept Governor Newsom and his far left buddies in Congress from keeping their hands out for more money.

We cannot simply throw massive spending at this with no accountability to the current and future American taxpayer. It is shameful.

We have also heard the Biden administration and its nominees call for a new national minimum wage of $15 an hour. The country’s minimum wage has not been raised by Congress in 20 years. With inflation, we estimate that inflation-adjusted costs falling on low-income families and even 2019 collections. But in California has exceeded spring forecasts and projections by 20 percent collections. That is wrong and will only send us further into debt and our families further into despair.

Based on what I have heard, I am concerned and, frankly, disturbed by what is being offered as the future of America’s economic policy. When I ran for the Senate, I did so to fix Washington’s broken way of doing things. We have to address Washington’s unconscionable need to waste tax dollars on things that don’t actually help or even hurt American families, especially working families and those on fixed incomes. I will never give up this fight.

In 2018, Ms. Yellen was quoted speaking about the U.S. debt and said: “If I had a magic wand, I would raise taxes.” We know that is not the real answer to solving our debt issue. It is simply the lazy, liberal approach.

It is time to get value out of every dollar we spend and make hard choices that actually help families and ensure a strong economic future for our Nation.

I cannot support the nomination of a candidate who proudly promotes Joe Biden’s policies to mortgage our kids’ and grandkids’ futures with irresponsible and shortsighted tax spending.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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. SULLIVAN, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.
Leader MCCONNELL said that it was not legislation to move more quickly. At the time, then-Republican President makes us different from the House. At Senate. It requires compromise. It change the filibuster. The filibuster requires 60 votes to move legislation in the Senate. It requires compromise. It requires bipartisanship. It is what makes us different from the House. At the time, then-Republican President Trump was saying: Change it. I want legislation to move more quickly.

The then-Majority Leader MCCONNELL said that it was not a good idea. As a matter of fact, most of us said that it was not a good idea, so we didn’t do anything. We didn’t change it because we didn’t want to change the nature of the U.S. Senate.

This is one of the issues being discussed right now, but it shouldn’t be a difficult issue because, as I said, the vast majority of Senators in this body, a couple of years ago, said: Don’t do it. We don’t want the Senate to just become a smaller version of the House, because that is what would happen if you were to get rid of the legislative filibuster.

I do want to extend my congratulations to the new majority leader as of yesterday, Senator SCHUMER, but to the new majority leader: This should not be a difficult issue. This should not be something that we are having a problem with in terms of the negotiations between the Democrats and the Republicans that delays the power-sharing agreement. This should be a piece of cake. Just a couple of years ago, the vast majority of Democrats and Republicans said: Don’t change the legislative filibuster. We want to make sure that is the case.

I think, for the new majority leader, this would be an act of statesmanship, an act of compromise, and would certainly make the statement that he is going to keep the Senate the same as it has been for centuries, for centuries. Changing the legislative filibuster would change the entire structure, history, and precedent of this very important body in our country, so it shouldn’t be hard. The vast majority of the Democrats and Republicans has already agreed to this.

To our new majority leader: Do what you know is right—an act of statesmanship and compromise. We have all been talking about it. It should not be a difficult decision, particularly given that so many Senators on both sides of the aisle feel strongly enough to have written Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL just a couple of years ago on this.

To all of my colleagues who signed that letter—you know who you are—make sure you are pressing the new majority leader to stick to what you pressed him on just a couple of years ago. It is important.

**Nomination of Lloyd James Austin**

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I also want to talk about another important issue, and that is President Biden’s nomination for the very important job of Secretary of Defense, Mr. Lloyd Austin. We are going to be voting on his nomination here on the Senate floor.

I had the honor of introducing Mr. Austin just 2 days ago at his confirmation hearing, and I thought the confirmation hearing went well. So I want to talk a little bit about Mr. Austin before we take what will essentially be two important votes for his confirmation.

Now, the last time I was actually on the floor of the U.S. Senate, our Capitol was under siege, and from a foreign policy and national security perspective, it was an alarming, riveting experience. It has been gloating over what happened on that day. They have been reveling in our disunity. Democracy brings chaos, they tell their people. It is better to have a strong hand that keeps order. Well, as you know, we do live in an imperfect democracy, no doubt, and the American I was honored to introduce at the Armed Services hearing the other day, Mr. Lloyd Austin, understands our imperfections more than many.

Yet, on closer inspection, the world’s dictators have little to celebrate. Congress went back to work on January 6, right here on the Senate floor, to count electoral votes, and yesterday there was a peaceful transfer of power at the top of our government, as there has been since our Republic’s founding. At some point—maybe sooner than we think—Chinese and Russian citizens are going to ask: Hey, why can’t we do that? It has been a peaceful transfer of power at the top of our government, as there has been since our Republic’s founding.

I got to know Mr. Austin in 2005 and 2006 while serving together in an Army-heavy combatant command as we conducted combat operations throughout the Middle East. We had what might be referred to today as an unequal power relationship. He was the Chairman, I was the General. I was a major. He had spent years on Active Duty. I was a reservist. He was a soldier. I was a marine. I was just one of hundreds of field-grade infantry officers who had been recalled to Active Duty and deployed in the region during a challenging time for our Nation. Yet, when I asked for his time, Mr. Austin gave it. When I had a problem, he listened. When I asked for help on an important mission, he provided it.

A critical hallmark of exceptional leadership, especially for organizations like the Pentagon, is not just how one treats superiors but how one treats subordinates, those down the chain of command. What I cared was respect and integrity and someone who knew how to get things done in a difficult environment.

It is clear to me the core principles of Mr. Austin’s life have been duty, honor, country. West Point has done its job. Now, that may sound quaint to some, but I think having individuals of impeccable character at the top of our government is more important than ever. Other than integrity, there is no singular requirement for the difficult job of Secretary of Defense, and as the former Director of the Joint Staff and as the former CENTCOM Commander, Mr. Austin certainly has insight on critical issues, such as interagency budget battles, working with allies, and congressional cooperation.

Mr. Austin is also fully committed to the constitutional principle of civilian control of our military—something that those who serve in uniform typically understand and revere more than those who don’t. In that regard, you may recall that, about 10 days ago, we had a hearing in the Committee on Armed Services on this very important topic, but I actually thought some of the witnesses had rather simplistic views of this important issue.

They had brought up topics and discussions of so-called “military logic” by those who wear the uniform versus “political logic” for those who don’t wear the uniform.

So let me play devil’s advocate for those who participated and watched that hearing.

The very nature of the confirmation hearing that we had with Mr. Austin just 2 days ago and, indeed, the very nature of the transfer of power that we saw yesterday here at the Capitol are evidence, in my view, that the civilian control of the military is not at risk in
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America. I actually believe the related but opposite problem should be of more concern today, at this moment, and that problem is no military experience in the top ranks of our government. With the exception of Mr. Austin, no nominee on the incoming Biden administration has ever served in uniform. With regard to the entire Biden Cabinet, only one other nominee has any military experience at all. This is not wise.

If confirmed, I am sure I won’t agree with every one of Mr. Austin’s decisions, but when the inevitable budget battles occur, it will be critical for our Nation’s security and, very importantly, the military members and their families who serve to have a Secretary of Defense who understands firsthand the very real morale and readiness problems that result from drastic cuts to our military—something, unfortunately, I think many of my colleagues here in the Senate will be pushing for and even among the Biden administration will be pushing for.

So let me conclude with this. Right now, a number of us are interviewing Cabinet members for confirmation for the incoming Biden administration. I anticipate opposing some, supporting others. Certainly, I anticipate opposing some if I believe they will hurt the working families of my State. But with regard to Mr. Austin, I am fully supporting his nomination.

We are living through difficult times— a pandemic, racial tensions, riots, turmoil at the top of the Pentagon, and rising dangers from China, Russia, and Iran. Mr. Austin’s confirmation won’t solve all of these problems, but it will help.

He represents the best of America—a man of integrity, humility, and character, with a wealth of relevant experience. Our allies will take comfort in his confirmation, and our adversaries will take pause. And as America’s first African-American Secretary of Defense, he will be an inspiration to millions both in and out of uniform.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to support Mr. Austin’s confirmation and the waiver in Federal law that it requires.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I can say with certainty that General Austin has no better friend or ally in this Chamber than Senator Dan Sullivan, who has seen him as a person and seen him as a commander. Those votes will occur later today.

Madam President, I rise today on the floor to talk about what happened yesterday at the Capitol and what happened at the Capitol last week.

Yesterday, we had the 59th Presidential inauguration right here. The citadel of democracy was once again the place where a President and Vice President were sworn in for 4 years.

Starting in 1789, every 4 years, America and the world have witnessed this remarkable event that provides for the peaceful transfer of Executive power and the continuity of governance. Something as simple as the transfer of power is sometimes taken for granted but is rare, even today. It has happened through wars. It has happened through economic recessions. We have had our inaugurations today and during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

What is more, the inauguration took place 2 weeks to the day on the very west steps of the United States Capitol where a violent mob stormed this building, desecrating these halls, and tried to stop our constitutionally mandated deliberations in this body.

It was the ninth inauguration ceremony I have attended. I was proud to be there as President Biden and Vice President Harris were sworn in. I am here today to thank the Capitol Police and other law enforcement agencies, including the Secret Service and its Director, Jim Murray, who took the lead on this national special security event to ensure that those present knew that we, indeed, had a peaceful transfer of power.

I also want to give special thanks to the men and women of the National Guard, who worked to ensure this ceremony and our security was safe. Over the past 2 weeks, 25,000 National Guard troops from across the country, including all 50 States and 3 territories, answered the call, leaving their families and friends and, for most, leaving their regular jobs to help defend this sacred celebration of democracy that occurred at this place yesterday.

This number of 25,000 troops includes nearly 1,000 guardsmen from my home State of Ohio. I had the opportunity to meet with a couple hundred of these citizen soldiers from Ohio yesterday. I was able to tell them how much we appreciate their commitment to the mission and what they have done, truly, to protect democracy and to help our Capitol Police during a stressful time. Because of their efforts, the ceremony was safe for everyone in attendance, and we were able to proceed with this transfer of power.

When I thanked them, they all told me the same thing—they were just doing their duty. They were proud to be here. They were protecting their country and their fellow citizens.

I have seen this firsthand over the years when I have visited Ohio National Guard installations around our State, including the Mansfield Air Base, the Toledo Air Base, the Springfield Air Base, and the 180th Airlift Wing, which is located in Mansfield, Ohio.

During this pandemic, when more Americans than ever are facing severe food insecurity, I have had the chance to meet with members of the Ohio Army National Guard who have been working around the clock at food banks I have been at, like Greater Cleveland Food Bank or Central Ohio Food Bank. They are working hard alongside volunteers to respond to a true crisis.

But that is not all. The Ohio National Guard has played an essential role in providing critical assistance to organizations and our jails when guards were out with the COVID virus. They have helped with testing. They have helped to get the COVID–19 vaccines distributed across our State, and they are continuing to do that.

I want to take this opportunity to also express the gratitude of all of us in this Chamber and all Americans to the Capitol Police for bravely holding the line against an illegal, violent mob that threatened this building, our proceedings, and our colleagues.

In effect, the men and women of the Capitol Police Force put their lives on the line to defend democracy. It is that simple.

As I said on this floor that terrible night 2 weeks ago, it was because of their courage that we were safe and because of their courage that we were able to demonstrate to the American people and the world that we were going to accomplish our constitutional duty of certifying the election. They allowed us to do that.

As a Congress, we have begun a complete, impartial, and nonpartisan investigation into what went wrong that day. I am working across the Senate with the committees of jurisdiction—the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, where I will be the ranking Republican, the Rules Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and the Intelligence Committee to ensure that our Capitol Police are never put in that kind of position again. We are performing oversight to ensure they have what they need to be able to protect the Capitol going forward.

Without prejudging our investigation, we must consider what reforms need to be made and take a hard look at the physical security of our Capitol Complex. While these buildings must remain accessible to the people, we need to work at incorporating the best practices in physical security, to include shatterproof windows and doors that can’t be easily breached. This will
cost money, but it is absolutely necessary, based on what happened on the 6th of January.

I look forward to helping lead this bipartisan effort, and I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join in.

Agent to preclude our review, but I know among the findings we will make is a finding that the officers on the line were heroic, and those officers deserve our gratitude.

We must never forget those who lost their lives that night, including a law enforcement officer and member of the Capitol Police, Officer Brian Sicknick, who, since 2008, had patrolled these halls and had been a familiar face to many of us. He was tragically killed defending this Capitol. He gave his life in heroic defense of us and our democracy.

Only a couple of days after the attack, I learned the tragic news that we lost another officer, a friend, Officer Howard Liebengood. Howie was on duty the day the Capitol was attacked and responded to the attack just as his many brave comrades did. He experienced some difficult experiences that night. I was devastated to learn of his death the next day.

Howie was someone I used to see almost every day. He was usually stationed in the Russell Building, where my office is located. He was an utmost professional—someone who took great pride in his work and had an ironclad commitment to keeping people safe. His dad was Sergeant at Arms here at one time.

He brightened my day every time I saw him. The last time was a few weeks ago, when he was standing guard outside the doors to the Russell Building, alone in the cold, alert, vigilant, and good-humored.

Today I reread a letter that I wrote to the Chief of the Capitol Police several years ago, commending the exceptional work that night and his partner, Chris Gallo, for their “professionalism, coupled with their kind demeanor.”

Howie represented what is great and good about not just our police force but our country.

Rest in peace, Officer Brian Sicknick and Officer Howard Liebengood.

Through the tragedy of that day 2 weeks ago came other stories of bravery and valor too. We have heard about the heroic actions of Officer Eugene Goodman, an Army veteran whose quick thinking under intense pressure protected us here in this Senate Chamber by leading the mob away from the Chamber while many of us were still inside.

He unselfishly put himself in danger and, despite the risk, handled himself with the professionalism that defines the Capitol Police, and I was pleased to see his promotion.

Inspector Tommy Lloyd is commander of the Capitol division—as compared to the House and the Senate, commander of the division to protect the Capitol itself.

This is a powerful photograph that I saw in TIME magazine. It is a photograph of him facing the mob, shoulder to shoulder with his line officers.

The Capitol was breached, but because of the valor of these men and women, we were able to complete our job and are able to be here today, discussing the workings of our democracy, confirming members of the new administration, doing our job.

The actions of law enforcement in the Capitol should serve as a reminder to all of us of the risks our police officers take every single day to keep us safe—not just here in the Capitol but through our country every Monday, for example, the city of Toledo, OH, lost one of its own when Officer Brandon Stalker of the Toledo Police Department was killed in a standoff with a gunman. Officer Stalker, only 24 years old, was the father of two young children and engaged to be married. He had a promising life ahead of him. My thoughts are with the friends and families of Officer Stalker and the friends and families of Officers Sicknick and Liebengood during this difficult time.

Even with all the threats and challenges they face, our officers of the law here and around the country carry on in their duties to protect and to serve. They are truly the best of America. Officer Stalker’s fellow officers will continue to patrol the streets of Toledo to keep its citizens safe. Yesterday, despite the hardships they have faced, the Capitol Police, once again, lined the Halls of Congress, keeping watch over the inauguration of the next President and Vice President of the United States.

Together, the National Guard, the Capitol Police, the Secret Service, and other law enforcement protected a Presidential inauguration that was at once like none other in recent memory, and yet also a continuation of a long and great tradition—an unbroken chain of peacefully transferring power that our Nation has cherished since 1789. They did their duty, as they do every day, in defense of the values we Americans hold dearest—democracy, liberty, rule of law—and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 335

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I will be, in a moment, asking for unanimous consent that we do the waiver on the Secretary of Defense, and we will vote on that relatively shortly, the Members should be aware.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.R. 335 from the House, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that there be 30 minutes for debate; that the bill be considered read a third time; and that the Senate vote on the passage of the bill, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just to clarify for the Members, we expect this vote to occur sometime within the next hour.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR AN EXCEPTION TO A LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 335, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 335) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 30 minutes of debate on the bill.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today in opposition of the legislative waiver for the nominee to become the next Secretary of Defense.

Since the inception of our Republic, civilian control of our military by democratically-elected civilians has been fundamental to American Government. This principle was firmly established as General George Washington famously resigned his commission to the Continental Congress in 1783, when he might have easily positioned himself as the leader of the fledgling American Government instead. With this bedrock principle in mind, Congress in 1947 established a limitation on former military generals serving as Secretary of Defense without a sufficient number of yes in civilian life. Today, Active-duty military members must have been retired for at least 7 years before becoming eligible to serve as Defense Secretary.

Four years ago, despite great concern for what I saw as an erosion of the principle of civilian control of our military, the Senate voted in support of granting a “one-time exception” to the statutory requirement for the confirmation of Gen. James Mattis. Until Congress
The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill, having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. REED. Madam 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.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted “nay.”

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

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 4 Leg.]

YEAS—69

Bennet
Bingaman
Boozman
Brown
Brown
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Cassidy
Congres
Cornyn
Cranston
Cromartie
David Vitter
Daines
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Graham
Grassley

R sensor NO不僅

Bass
Burr
Byrne
Collins
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Duckworth

Not Voting—4

Burton
Hyde-Smith

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the bill is passed.

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The bill (H.R. 335) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL CARTER

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for more than two decades, my friend Dr. Michael Carter has made Campbellsville University an oasis where students were able to call home. The culture of the university is centered in the heart of Taylor County. CU offers quality Christian higher education to thousands of future leaders.

As the school’s president, Michael accomplished one remarkable goal after another. He set the university on a path toward long-term success. At the end of last year, Michael began a richly-earned retirement leaving behind a grateful university community. I would like to take a moment today to recognize my friend for his leadership and his lasting impact in Kentucky and beyond.

According to CU’s board chair, Michael’s leadership “forever transformed” the century-old school. I couldn’t agree more. When Michael came to campus in 1999, the university was home to around 1,600 students and 74 full-time faculty. His tenure has seen the CU family grow to include more than 13,500 students and a record-setting freshman class despite the coronavirus pandemic. CU recently graduated its first class of Ph.D. students, marking a major milestone for the school’s academic excellence. He also more than tripled the faculty ranks with leading scholars and dedicated educators.

To accommodate the new students and faculty, Michael undertook an ambitious plan to grow CU’s physical footprint. Under his leadership, CU was centered on faith. Michael embarked on the construction of a landmark chapel anchoring the entire community in its mission. Then, under the steeple of the new Ransdell Chapel, the growth has continued to surpass expectations.

CU’s expansion wasn’t limited to the city of Campbellsville, either. Michael oversaw the opening of eight additional centers of learning in Kentucky and around the country. The university was even approved for a new international arm in Ontario. Today, CU properties account for 1.1 million square feet, giving it the ability to serve current students with plenty of space to expand its reach.

In each of my visits to the school, I have been impressed by the remarkable development under Michael’s leadership. From its 850 student athletes to a $137 million economic impact in Taylor County, Michael has helped CU reach previously unbelievable heights. With the rest of his all-star leadership team, including my friend Dr. John Chowning, Michael drove the school’s growth while keeping focus on an unmatched student experience.

When CU bid farewell to its president, the community also said goodbye to its consequential first lady. Debbie Carter has a long list of accomplishments in her own right. She took a leadership role in securing a national accreditation for CU’s Carver School of Social Work. She was also a driving force to create pathways for students with financial need to attend CU.

Michael and Debbie made an incredible team that changed this university and our Commonwealth for years to come.

Whatever the future holds in store for Michael and Debbie, I would like to wish them the very best. They leave office with the sincere gratitude of a university community made better by two decades of devotion. I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Michael Carter for his leadership at Campbellsville University.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL, RET. ARTHUR T. DEAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to recognize the retirement of MG Arthur Dean as CEO and executive chairman of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, known as CADCA. MG Arthur T. Dean, U.S. Army, Retired, came from humble beginnings in North Carolina to rise to the highest, most distinguished levels of military service, where he retired after 33 years of major general. He possesses numerous military awards, with the highest being two awards of the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal.

I have had the honor to work with CADCA for many years and have long supported their efforts to prevent drug abuse. For instance, I supported and led efforts to create the Drug Free Communities Program in 1997.

Major General Dean began his career as CEO and VC of CADCA in 1998, so we have had the pleasure of working on anti-drug efforts for over 20 years. I applaud him in his well-deserved retirement.

Over the past 23 years of service, I have had the pleasure to witness General Dean use his superior leadership, diplomatic skills, and passion to build CADCA into a world-class organization. Under his leadership, the Drug Free Communities Program has grown, and now over 2,000 communities benefit from these grants.

General Dean is a leader with vision, compassion, and a steady determination to ensure that substance use prevention remains a national priority so the next generation of Americans can grow up safe, healthy and drug free.

General Dean has been an outstanding leader of CADCA. His legacy will be one of progress and dedication towards reducing rates of youth substance use and misuse.

I want to thank General Dean for his dedicated and excellent service to our Nation, both as a military and civilian leader, and wish him well in his much-deserved retirement.

CONFIRMATION OF AVRIL DANICA HAINES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I today rise in support of the nomination of Ms. Avril Haines as the Director of National Intelligence.

Last night, the Senate overwhelmingly voted to confirm Ms. Avril Haines as the Director of National Intelligence with a vote of 84-10.

I voted in support of Director Haines as I believe her to be a highly-qualified professional with the trust and mandate by President Biden to be a strong leader and reinvigorate objectivity to the intelligence community.

She has pledged to defend and uphold our democracy, our freedoms and our values by ensuring there is simply no place for politics ever when it comes to intelligence.

It is clear from her background that Ms. Haines has the experience necessary to be an effective DNI.

She has served as both the Deputy Director of CIA and as Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama, along with other positions in the White House and Congress.

Her nearly 20 years of experience in national security, intelligence, and foreign policy matters gives her valuable insight into the many challenges facing the intelligence community and makes her a great choice for Director of National Intelligence.

Based on my conversations with Director Haines and her testimony before this Senate Intelligence Committee, I am fully confident she has what it takes to put the IC on the right path.

During her confirmation hearing on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, Director Haines outlined her top three priorities: No. 1, strengthening the institution including increasing trust and credibility with analytic objectivity; No. 2, better aligning IC efforts and resources to the major threats we are facing such as China and transnational threats; and No. 3, building better partnerships Congress, academia, the private sector, U.S. State and local officials, and with other countries.

I strongly agree on these significant priorities and look forward to periodically receiving updates from her on these.

Furthermore, I thank her for her clearly stated position that waterboarding is, in fact, torture, and that the CIA’s former interrogation program’s embarrassment techniques included torture.

In short, she is the ideal candidate to head the intelligence community at a time when we face numerous crisis threatening our national security.

She inherits an intelligence community beset by challenges, and I look forward to working with her to protect the American people.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the Director of National Intelligence must demonstrate commitment to reining in the vast power of our intelligence agencies. They should not view themselves as an enabler or facilitator of
agencies that already operate without public scrutiny. We do not need another Washington insider in this position, someone who will go along to get along, helping to further the expansion of secret government powers.

When someone is a skeptic of these powers, After years of revelations of government spying on Americans and the exposure of the unconstitutional applications of these powers, I had hoped that the President would submit a nominee that understood the importance of regaining the public’s trust, to pledge transparency and accountability.

The President’s nominee, Avril Haines, does not meet that profile. She played a key role in formulating the government’s legal authority to conduct summary executions by drone and was reportedly summoned in the middle of the night to approve lethal drone strikes. As Deputy Director of the CIA, she declined to punish any of the CIA employees who spied on the Senate as it was revealed the CIA’s then-acting director had allowed theโปรแกรม. Her record is that of an insider, someone who will defend the broken status quo. I will not support more of the same unconstitutional policies, and I oppose her confirmation.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR ELECTION INTEGRITY

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, along with my colleague Senator Mike Crapo, I rise today to ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the mission statement for the Citizens Committee for Election Integrity and their recommended minimum standards for fair and honest elections. Idahoans concerned about election integrity will support the Citizens Committee for Election Integrity to demonstrate the meaning of the Constitution by helping ensure the voices of “We the people” are heard.

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

The Citizens Committee for Election Integrity’s mission statement reads as follows:

All political power rests with the people. Our Constitutionally guaranteed republican form of government relies on free, fair, and honest elections to select our representatives and leaders. To ensure equal protection and equal representation of the people, laws governing our elections must meet certain minimum standards.

It is the purpose of this Citizens Committee to concisely articulate the minimum standards for free, fair, and honest elections. These standards shall then be used by our local, state and federal legislators as a metric for reviewing and revising election law to ensure free, fair, and honest elections where the outcome is accepted by all citizens of good will.

1. All voting processes, other than those needed to preserve the privacy of a citizen’s vote, must be open and available for direct observation, with no minimum distance requirements, and audit by agents of the candidates or parties.

2. All election materials must have a secure chain of custody. Election officials must be accompanied by observers when accessing any election materials. Records of the chain of custody shall be complete and available for audit.

3. All votes, regardless of voting method, shall be held to equal standards.

4. Voters shall only be qualified electors that are able to verifiably provide their government issued photo identity before being issued a ballot. Voters who provide false information, including information of voter qualification, may be penalized.

5. As a condition of being issued a ballot, the voter’s identity and signature must be recorded on the ballot in a manner that is tamper-evident. Poll books must be protected from unauthorized access.

6. Original Ballots must have a physical form that allows voting choices to be examined and properly interpreted by the naked eye.

7. Ballots must have features designed to prevent counterfitting.

8. An auditable system for tracking the status of all ballots must be implemented and maintained in the State of origin. The total number of printed ballots must equal the sum of the number of cast ballots, spoiled ballots, and unvoted ballots.

9. Ballot tabulation must be conducted by two independent and unrelated systems. The difference in totals between the two systems must be less than one half the margin of victory or 0.1% of the vote total, whichever is less. Tabulating machines must only tabulate and not modify ballots in any way, or be connected to the internet.

10. Before the results of an election can be certified, the ballot counts must be reconciled and compared with government records to identify duplicate or ineligible registrations.

11. Lists of qualified electors must be purged of unqualified persons 180 days before an election. Voter Rolls should be vetted and compared with government records to identify duplicate or ineligible registrations.

12. Laws and regulations governing an election may not be changed for 180 days prior to that election.

13. All election records should be retained and preserved for not less than 22 months.

14. Voter identification for provisional ballots must be verified, with information provided by the voter, prior to that ballot being counted.

REMEMBERING HENRY H.R. “HANK” COE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, the 2021 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature got underway. Noticeably absent from the first day of the session was State Senator Henry H.R. “Hank” Coe. Hank had been present in Cheyenne for the first day of the legislative session for 32 consecutive years.

In March of 2020, on the last day of the 2020 Wyoming legislative session, Hank announced his plan to retire. Senator Coe represented the people of Park County from 1988 to 2020.

Hank was a respected and effective legislator. He earned a reputation for being a kind, thoughtful, persuasive legislator of great integrity.

Hank always had a remarkable grasp of the issues facing the state and his home community. He could see short and long-term needs and offer solutions to address those needs.

During his time in the legislature, Senator Coe served on numerous committees, was elected as majority floor leader, and, in 2001, served as president of the senate.

For 17 years, Hank proudly served as the chair of the senate education committee. He was a strong proponent of local control and high-quality education.

Hank showed students that through hard work and dedication to their studies, there was a world of opportunities waiting for them. He realized the importance of investing in our young people, recognizing their achievements, and providing them with the tools needed to succeed.

When I served in the Wyoming State Senate, I had the great honor of working with Hank Coe on one of our proudest legislative initiatives, the creation of the Hathaway scholarship program.

We were able to create a scholarship fund with a $400 million permanent endowment. Income from the fund continues to fund scholarships for Wyoming high school graduates today. The Hathaway scholarship program allows every Wyoming student, regardless of economic background, to qualify for a merit-based scholarship to attend the University of Wyoming or any of our State’s seven community colleges.

Senator Coe’s leadership was a driving force behind passage of this legislation. Thousands of Wyoming students who today are the resources to obtain a college education have benefited from this scholarship.

Hank’s contribution to public service extended far beyond Wyoming’s capitol. He was a mentor to many in his hometown of Cody. He participated fully on local boards and committees. The Cody Chamber of Commerce, Cody Medical Foundation, Cody Yellowstone Air Service, Wyoming Air Service, Buffalo Bill Museum of the West, and the Park County Commissioners all benefited from Hank’s contributions.

When Hank retired, he released the following statement, which was printed in the Cody Enterprise on March 13, 2020:

“The Wyoming Legislature continues to be one of the most effective and civil deliberate bodies in the nation. It is my sincere hope that this tradition will continue and Wyoming can be an example to the rest of the nation. Coe, said. ‘Service has been a true honor and a privilege. I’m eternally grateful to the people of Park County who put their faith in me to represent them many years. To my community, friends, family, fellow lawmakers and the exceptional legislative staff, I say thank you.’”

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Hank had a calling to serve. He took that calling and ran with it. His life's work has made a difference in the lives of the people in Park County and in every corner of our great State. History will look kindly upon the contributions and achievements of Hank Coe.

Hank passed away today, January 21, 2021. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy, and he will be greatly missed by a grateful State. To Hank's entire family, especially his children and grandchildren, H.R. and Granddaughter Henry, daughter Carey Coe Johnson and husband Jeff and grandchildren Madeline, Jagger, and Jrakie, and daughter Bethany Coe Boydstun and grandchildren, Jackson, Tyler and Lily—our prayers and well wishes are with you.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Hank Coe. His dedication to service will have a profound impact on our state for generations. Thank you, Senator Coe, for your years of tireless service to Wyoming and for your friendship. I send your family my condolences. God bless.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL FREDERICK J. "FRITZ" ROEGGE

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, today I honor a superb leader and warrior. I have had the privilege of associating with VADM Fritz Roegge both personally and professionally over many years, and it has been my pleasure to do so. After 40 years of unified command, Vice Admiral Roegge will be retiring from the U.S. Navy. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize his distinguished service and dedication to our Navy.

Vice Admiral Roegge is an honor graduate of the Naval Academy and a master of engineering management from the Catholic University of America and a master of arts with highest distinction in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He was a fellow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI program and of the Harvard Kennedy School's School for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

His sea tours include USS Whale (SSN 338), USS Florida (SSBN 726) (Blue), USS Key West (SSN 752), and most prominently, command of USS Connecticut (SSN 22). His major command was as commodore of Submarine Squadron 22, with additional duty as commanding officer, Naval Support Activity La Maddalena, Italy. As a rear admiral, he served concurrently as commander, Joint Functional Command of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. House of Representatives, as the head of the Submarine and Nuclear Power Division (PERB 42) at the Navy Personnel Command, and as military assistant to the Deputy Director of the Joint Staff in both the Strategy and Policy (J5) and the Regional Operations (J35) Directorates.

Vice Admiral Roegge completed his first flag officer assignment as the deputy commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike at U.S. Strategic Command. He then served concurrently as commander, Submarine Group 8; commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; deputy commander, U.S. 6th Fleet; and director of Operations and Intelligence (N3), U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa. As a rear admiral, he served on the Navy staff as director, Military Personnel Plans and Programs (N13) with a concurrent period as director, Total Force Manpower Division (N12) and then as commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Vice Admiral Roegge now culminates his career of service to the Navy and the Nation as the 16th president of the National Defense University (NDU). NDU is the university of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the premier Joint Professional Military Education institution in the Department of Defense. NDU’s mission to develop joint warfighters and other national security leaders through rigorous academia, research, and engagement has never been more important to our Nation and its security.

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Vice Admiral Roegge for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy. I want to recognize his supportive family, Mrs. Julie Roegge and their two sons. Also, my thanks and appreciation to Vice Admiral Roegge and his family “fair winds and following seas.”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HOUSTON COUNTY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I consider it an honor and a privilege to acknowledge for the official record Houston County, TN, sesquicentennial anniversary.

Each State is its own melting pot of history and culture, and Tennessee is no exception. In Houston County, the Irish roots of the pioneers who explored the Cumberland River run deep, having buried themselves in the rugged, foggy hills and creek beds that so resembled the founders’ homeland.

In the late 1780s, the Houston County area served as a new frontier for early pioneers. What began as a small working settlement flourished into a community that bore witness at the crossroads of the Civil War, embraced the possibilities of crisscrossing railroads, and led the charge toward progress that we now look back on as a major industrial boom.

On January 21, 1871, the Tennessee legislature officially established Houston County, named in honor of Texas Governor and then sixth Governor of Tennessee, Sam Houston. Since then, the people who call Houston County home have turned their little
MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
At 4:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 335. An act to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED
At 5:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOYER) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 335. An act to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

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-19. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Foreign Terrorist Organizations designated on the list of foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Public Law 99-236, as amended) (88-2021-0015); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-20. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Foreign Terrorist Organizations designated on the list of foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Public Law 99-236, as amended) (88-2021-0010); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-21. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Foreign Terrorist Organizations designated on the list of foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Public Law 99-236, as amended) (88-2021-0011); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Armed Services, with the report S. 12. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE
The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, for the Committee on Armed Services:

* Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense.

N Nomination was reported with recommendation that he be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

NOMINATION OF ANTONY BLINKEN
Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I come to the floor today to urge the swift confirmation for Tony Blinken to be the Secretary of State.

Like we saw with Avril Haines yesterday and moving toward Lloyd Austin today, we need to hold a floor vote on Mr. Blinken's nomination urgently.

Mr. Blinken is well known to the Senate, having been previously confirmed as Deputy Secretary of State, having served as the Deputy National Security Advisor and as the staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee before that.

He is superbly qualified to be the Secretary of State, and his knowledge and thoughtfulness were on display during 5 hours of testimony earlier this week. And since then, he has been asked to respond to hundreds of questions. As a matter of fact, he has had an inordinate number of questions that have been put to him for the record. He had nearly over half a hundred before his hearing. He has had from a couple of our colleagues nearly 600 questions, including multiple parts to those questions. And to my knowledge, he has largely answered them all, notwithstanding the size of it.

Now, I have been, since I arrived in this institution, one of the big advocates of the prerogatives of each and every individual Senator and of the institution. So I take a back step to no one, but there is a difference between prerogatives and prerogatives that are abused, which, in essence, are for the purpose of not seeking information but for the purpose of delaying a nomination.

Now, I appreciate that Senator Reed, the present chairman of the committee, has been working with me to try to accelerate Mr. Blinken's nomination to the floor, but I would ask my colleagues, particularly those on the committee, to join him and I in an effort to bring one of the important national security positions in our government to the floor for a vote.

I don't think we should be leaving this weekend without a vote for the Secretary of State.

He is the right person to repair and restore our alliances, to rebuild and renew the State Department, to reinvigorate the relationship between the Department and Congress—something
that I think Republicans and Democrats alike have agreed have soured dramatically.

His testimony, his opening statement, his answers to questions show that he will be a working partner with this administration.

But, obviously, confirming Mr. Blinken is not just about the nominee himself. It is about doing what the American people expect and the Constitution requires—providing advice and consent to ensure that national security officials are in office in a timely manner.

We are facing challenges in every corner of the world. The world is on fire—from Iran to Russia, to Venezuela, to global challenges that define our times and defy borders, like COVID, migration, and climate change. We can’t afford delaying to put Mr. Blinken in office. We can’t allow the State Department to be rudderless.

If we leadership, we can’t be sure that China or Russia and others won’t fill the vacuum as they have for the last several years or do something that is adverse to our national and economic security.

Imagine that there is a hostage deal to be made. I believe there is, and you can’t have another country call the Secretary of State because the Secretary of State doesn’t exist.

Imagine if there are tensions between two countries that affect our national interest. I have a Secretary of State to call as counterpart in those countries to seek to ease the tension, to remove the threat.

Imagine if President Biden needs to have a Secretary of State engage in some part of the world to stop a conflict, to open an opportunity, to prevent an unintended consequence. We don’t have that person, and we cannot expect the President to pick up the phone in each and every instance in the world and have him try to deal with COVID at home and an economic crisis that follows on from that. That is what the Secretary of State does.

So Mr. Blinken also, finally, is not just critical to addressing challenges abroad, we have to acknowledge what the role of Secretary of State is here at home.

If we remember what just happened back on the 6th, three of the first four officials in the line of succession—the Vice President, the Speaker of the House, and the President pro tempore of the Senate—were in the Capitol when domestic terrorists breached the building. Every day we learn more details about this heinous attack, including that the terrorists, some of whom were chanting “Hang Mike Pence!” came within a minute or so of a potential face-to-face encounter with Vice President Pence. Thank God, through the quick thinking and heroics of our Capitol Police and other law enforcement, they remained unscathed, but if something had happened, it is the Secretary of State who is fourth in line of succession to the President of the United States. Leaving the office vacant is irresponsible. It is irresponsible in terms of something happening in the world and not having a Secretary of State who could work to deal with it so that we could preserve our national security interests, something that could harm our country, and stop something, an unintended consequence, from happening.

Mr. Blinken has the qualifications. The challenges facing our country call for him to be confirmed, and I hope the Senate does not make me tomorrow until he is confirmed.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me just say to my good friend from New Jersey how wholeheartedly I agree with him. I have known Tony Blinken for a long period of time. I have worked with him in different venues. I talked to him today at some length, and we talked together on many issues that I think are significant.

One issue that we have been talking about in the Western Sahara. He understands the issues. So I join my friend from New Jersey in encouraging a fast and quick confirmation.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO TEAM INHOFE

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we recently said goodbye to a lot of really good, hard-working men and women from the previous administration, and I want to highlight a few of them.

We refer to them—some of my friends and some of my enemies—refer to them as the “bullies” of Washington. It comes from the committees that I have chaired, both the Armed Services Committee as well as the Environment and Public Works Committee. But anyway, they are really a great bunch of people.

I am going to start with Andrew Wheeler. Andrew Wheeler was with me for a number of years—14 years—before he became the Director of the EPA. Here is a guy who was nominated to be the Administrator. At that time, I said that there is no one in America who is as qualified as Andrew Wheeler for this job. The first job he had out of law school was with the EPA. When he was nominated to be Administrator, I kind of gave his whole life history.

All of my Senate colleagues know Andy and have known him for a long period of time—Democrats and Republicans. He has worked for me in the Senate as well as becoming one of my “has-beens,” as we refer to people who used to talk with me and are still my good friends.

Andy started in my personal office as chief counsel and went on to serve as the staff director and chief counsel during my time as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. He has decades of experience and is one of the most skilled energy and environmental policy experts I have ever come in contact with, and I am immensely proud that he has been able to accomplish throughout his career, but particularly as EPA Administrator.

Andy understood that the EPA’s mission is to implement the laws that are passed by Congress for the American people. The EPA’s job is not to legislate. A lot of people think that. That is our job, to legislate, and then he carries it out, and he did really just a great job with that.

Contrary to what many on the left say Republicans want, we do want clean air and clean water and clean land, and Andy proved that he could accomplish that without burdensome overregulation. During his time at the EPA, he spearheaded a number of the rollbacks and deregulations that brought important relief to American job creators while protecting our environment.

He rolled back the economy standards on cars that were created to try to keep Americans who don’t want to drive and that they can’t afford. In its replacement, Andy developed the SAFE vehicles rule, which expands consumer choice and lowers the price of vehicles.

Andy also repealed and replaced the waters of the United States rule, or WOTUS. On the WOTUS rule, if you talk to any of the agricultural groups—I am talking about the Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups—they would say that was the rule we really had to do something about. States like mine don’t need Washington bureaucrats imposing their radical regulations like WOTUS on people who know the waters better than they do. It is not an overstated fact that this was probably the greatest regulatory burden facing Oklahoma’s farmers, landowners, and ranchers during the Obama administration. I was proud to see WOTUS repealed by the navigable waters protection rule, which provided a clean and lawful definition of waters of the United States and doesn’t try to overregulate the arid parts of the State.

Oklahoma is an arid state. If you go out to the panhandle western part of Oklahoma, the panhandle of Oklahoma, it is really arid. If you take that regulation out of the hands of the States and give it to the Federal Government, there is always a concern by our farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma and across the Nation that they would turn these arid areas into wetlands.

Another of the regulatory overhauls accomplished by Andy was for the affordable clean energy or the ACE rule that replaced the illegal Clean Power Plan, which regulate emissions of coal-fired powerplants. I had long been critical of the Clean Power Plan and led the charge against it in the Senate.
Like most of that era of the rules, it was a Federal power grab, and it would have sent Americans’ electricity bills soaring, and we all knew that. But we made it history when we repealed and replaced the Clean Power Plan with the ACE rule. It was good. Not only did this keep Americans’ electricity bills costs be affordable, it is expected to benefit the environment as well.

Just last month, the EPA finalized another big rule that requires EPA to prepare a cost-benefit analysis before coming up with new regulations. How is that at all unreasonable? Americans shake their heads, and they wonder why we would pass things that don’t have any kind of a cost-benefit analysis. What is it going to cost? What kind of sacrifices are we going to have to make? Well, we put that into effect, and I think it is something people are very thankful for.

Throughout his tenure, Andy has been focused on what is in the best interests of the taxpayers and not just the Washington bureaucrats. That is clear with this rule and countless others.

You know, one of the good things about Andy, as I already mentioned, is that he knows more about the process than anybody else does—more about the EPA. He has always been a star, and he started at the bottom. When he was first put into that office and was confirmed as EPA director, he gave a speech over at the EPA. He didn’t know where to begin. I went over there to hear it. He had 300 people at the EPA all listening to him and looking at him and saying: There is room at the top for me. Here is a guy who started at the very bottom and ended up as director of the EPA. It didn’t go unnoticed. Everybody realized that.

So I would ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an E&E News article from July 2018, which details a number of the former staff people and their backgrounds.

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

(Reprinted from "Brave New World" as Tham Inhove Takes Over"
By Robin Bravender)

It’s official: Alumni of the best-known climate skeptic in Congress are leading EPA.

Former aides to Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) have put President Trump’s energy policy agenda since even before he was elected. Many of them quickly landed top spots at EPA and in the White House, and Inhofe alumni and aides have helped push out Scott Pruitt through the confirmation process before becoming his chief of staff at the agency last year.

But now an ex-Inhove staffer is taking the reins as Pruitt leaves under a cloud of controversies.

Andrew Wheeler, who steps in as EPA’s chief executive officer, was EPA’s chief of staff and chief counsel to Inhofe on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for much of the George W. Bush administration.

Jackson, a native Oklahoman, was an Inhofe aide who served as EPW staff director and Inhofe’s chief of staff.

Brittany Bolen became the acting head of EPA’s policy shop after Samantha Dravis left earlier this year. Bolen had served as counsel to Inhofe on the EPW Committee.

Daisy Lendtre, a communications adviser in the policy office, was Inhofe’s communications director.

And former Inhofe counsel Mandy Gunasekara is now principal deputy assistant administrator in EPA’s policy office.

As Andy, Wheeler may have helped shape President Trump’s energy policy agenda.

The Washington bureaucrats. That is not necessarily a political agenda, but it’s a policy-based agenda, he said.

Those staffers have a history of working closely with Democrats on Capitol Hill, that person added: “I think that the Democrat staff and members like Inhofe and the Inhofe staffers treated them fairly when they were up there.”

They also shared an appreciation for process, said Matt Bolen, Inhofe’s former communications director.

He expects his former colleagues to take a “back to basics” approach at EPA. “It’s not necessarily a political agenda, but it’s a policy-based agenda,” he said.

That contrasts with how many people viewed Pruitt, who was widely thought to be trying to use EPA as a stepping stool to reach higher political office.

Under Wheeler, “the whole tone is going to be different,” the energy lobbyist said. “People are going to perceive that Andy is going to spend his time on policy and not thinking about whether he’s the next senator from Oklahoma.”

But as Republicans and many in industry are celebrating the rise of the Inhoef crowd at EPA, some on the left are furious that disputes over the vocal climate change skeptic—famous for throwing a snowball on the Senate floor to try to disprove global warming—are leading the agency tasked with protecting the environment.

“It is a brave new world of pro-fossil-fuel ideologues who seem not to care about anything but industry profits, the rest of the planet be damned,” Bill Snape, an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. “We’re all getting hit in the head by the snowball at this point. It’s obviously disheartening.”

Mr. INHOHE. Madam President, at the top of the list was my chiefs of staff, Ryan Jackson. Like Andy, Ryan also went on to be my staff director of the EPW Committee, Environment and Public Works, where he helped negotiate Bipartisan bills for highway, water, and infrastructure to environmental bills like TSCA. Remember, that was the one that had the chemical regulations. In his role he helped negotiate with former California Senator Barbara Boxer on issues related to energy policy that benefit all Americans.

for many, many years, every time the Republicans were in the majority, I was the chairman of that committee. And I was the ranking member in 2013. So we worked together. So we worked together to make sure that when it was my turn, I would say: Now is the time that actually gets things done. That was Barbara Boxer and me. No two people could be further apart philosophically than Barbara Boxer and I, yet we were able to do that with the help of Ryan Jackson.

I actually hired him when he was still in college. He left my office early 2017 to go to work as Chief of Staff at the EPA, where he was a central player in the implementation of the last administration’s policy initiatives. In February, he left the EPA, which was when Mandy Gunasekara took office as chief of staff. Mandy worked for me in the EPW Committee for several years as the majority counsel. In that role she helped me craft air and other public policies. With the EPW, she has been instrumental in advancing priorities like the ACE rule that I mentioned earlier. She is a skilled and devoted public servant, and I am proud of all that she has done to advance policies that benefit all Americans.

A number of others of what I refer to as my “has-beens” have served at the EPA over the last 4 years. Susan Bodine was the chief counsel on EPW and went on to serve as Assistant Administrator in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

Brittany Bolen was counsel for the EPW, Environment and Public Works Committee, and went on to serve as Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy.

Byron Brown was senior counsel at the EPW and went on to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy.

Then there is Daisy Lendtre. She was communications director in my office and went on to serve as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Policy.

So I am proud of all my “has-beens” and the big impact that they have had on our country. We are grateful for their service, past and present—especially that of Andrew Wheeler and Ryan Jackson. I say to our friends Wheeler and Jackson: Thank you and good luck in your next endeavors. You did great work.

Let me just mention one last thing. I urge the Biden administration not to repeal a lot of the rules and regulations that have been put in place during the previous administration. I believe that we are already starting to see the effects of that. I am concerned that we are going to see a lot of uncertainty in the future. I urge the Biden administration to continue to work towards a clean and sustainable future. It is in the best interest of our country, and it is the right thing to do for the planet. Thank you.
the time to impose costly new regulations on Americans and the job creators in this country. Everyone knows that this pandemic has wreaked havoc on our economy, and I am certain that, had we not had the virus, we would have broken even more economic records than we already had.

Prior to the pandemic, we had the best economy of our life. We set records, with small business optimism reaching the highest level on record in its 45-year history and unemployment hitting a 50-year low of 3.5 percent. We have always said in the past that full employment is 4 percent. We brought it down that entire year, and in February of 2020 it was down to 3.5 percent. It never had happened before. The median household income rose to a record high in 2019, the highest since 1967. The wealth of American families rose. That is an indicator. It rose to the highest level in history. So these good things were happening, and I would urge this administration not to repeal some of these regulations. Repealing some of these regulations would simply reverse gains like these.

I urge the Biden administration to work with me and others to reach compromises on regulations that would benefit all Americans. That seems to be pretty reasonable, and I think that is a good program to do. Let’s give it a try. OK?

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion of morning business on Friday, January 22, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 1, the nomination of Lloyd Austin to be the Secretary of Defense; further, that there be 10 minutes for debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; and 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.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Friday, January 22; 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; finally, that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session as provided under the previous order.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, for the information of Senators, there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Austin nomination to be Secretary of Defense at approximately 10:30 tomorrow.

We also hope to vote on confirmation of the Yellen and Blinken nominations this week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:14 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 22, 2021, at 10 a.m.
HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act, which would eliminate the wasteful congressional review period for legislation passed by the District of Columbia Council and align longtime congressional practice with the law. The congressional review period for D.C. bills is almost entirely ignored by Congress, providing it no benefit, but imposes substantial costs in time and money on the District. Congress has almost always used the appropriations process, rather than the disapproval process, to block or nullify D.C. bills and almost entirely abandoned the disapproval process as its mechanism for nullifying bills 24 years ago, having used it successfully only three times before then. Yet Congress still requires the D.C. Council to use Kafkaesque make-work procedures to comply with the abandoned congressional review period established by the D.C. Home Rule Act.

Our bill would eliminate the congressional review period for bills passed by the D.C. Council. However, Congress would lose no authority it currently exercises because, even upon enactment of this bill, Congress would retain its authority under Clause 17 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution to amend or overturn any D.C. laws at any time.

The congressional review period (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) includes those days when either house of Congress is in session, delaying D.C. bills from becoming law, often for many months. The delay forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted, avoiding a lapse of a bill before it becomes final. The congressional calendar means that a 30-day period usually lasts a couple of months and often much longer because of congressional recesses. For example, the congressional review period for a bill that changed the word “handicap” to “disability” lasted nine months. The Council estimates that 50 to 65 percent of the bills it passes could be eliminated if the review period did not exist. To ensure that a bill does not lapse, the Council often must pass the same bill in three forms: emergency (in effect for 90 days), temporary (in effect for 225 days) and permanent. Moreover, the Council has carefully track the days the House and Senate are in session for each D.C. bill it passes to avoid gaps and to determine when the bills have taken effect. The Council estimates that it could save 5,000 employee hours and 160,000 sheets of paper per two-year Council period if the review process were eliminated.

The D.C. Council. However, tragically, in large part due to invasive species, Hawaii has become the endearing species and extinction capital of the

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Preparing Localities for an Autonomous and Connected Environment (PLACE) Act. This legislation passed the House last session as Section 5303 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and creates a federally funded highly automated vehicle clearinghouse to study the secondary impacts of autonomous vehicles and mobility innovation.

The transportation sector is changing at a faster pace than ever before. New mobility options like Uber and Lyft, bikeshare, and scooters have already disrupted how Americans get around. The private sector has invested more than $16 billion toward bringing semi- or fully-autonomous vehicles to market, and research publications on self-driving technology have quadrupled over the past three years. Many

INTRODUCTION OF THE PLACE ACT
HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

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world. Hawaii currently has 502 species listed as endangered, more than any other state and almost half of the total endangered species nation-wide. Many of these species are critically endangered and face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Although we will never know the true number of species that have already been driven extinct in Hawaii, best estimates are that in the last 200 years alone, 28 bird, 72 snail, 74 insect and 97 plant species have gone extinct.

As one particularly poignant example, two years ago the Atlantic published an article, The island of its Kind, which chronicled the death of George the snail. He was the last achatinella apexfulva, a species of tree snail that is endemic to the island of O‘ahu. This article calls attention to the alarming fact that snails in Hawaii are disappearing at an alarming rate, perhaps faster any animal on Earth right now, victims of various factors in part linked to invasive species.

The threat to our state tree, the ‘ōhi‘a lehua, is also illustrative of our growing crisis. Used for poi boards and outrigger canoes, the ‘ōhi‘a lehua has been linked to invasive species. As the first tree to grow in new Hawaii lava flows, ‘ōhi‘a grows throughout the watershed creating new soil, stabilizing steep mountain ridges and comprises approximately 80 percent of Hawaii’s native forest. However, rapid ‘ōhi‘a death, or ROD, caused by an invasive fungal pathogen, kills ‘ōhi‘a trees quickly, and threatens the stability of Hawaii’s native forests. Since its discovery on the Big Island in 2014, ROD has spread to Kaua‘i, Maui and O‘ahu, and has killed hundreds of thousands of trees.

Hawaii’s unique circumstances also have given rise to one of our nation’s most diverse and productive agricultural communities. With a year-round growing cycle, our crops have ranged throughout our history from the highest quality sugar and pineapple to cattle to tropical specialty crops like fruit and cut flowers in the highest demand worldwide.

Yet it is exactly because these crops like our natural resources have adapted to Hawaii’s uniqueness that they are the most susceptible to devastation from external species against which they have no natural defenses. Invasive species have drastically impacted agriculture in Hawaii, threatening some of the island’s most valuable crops in the state’s third-largest industry.

Hawaii’s third most valuable crop, the macadamia nut, is under threat from the macadamia felted coccid. Macadamia felted coccid has been found in all of Hawaii Island’s macadamia growing regions. The felted coccid reduces macadamia tree output by draining nutrients from the tree. Invasive species coupled with increased rainfall has led to a 20 percent decrease in the macadamia nut harvest this year compared to last year.

The cattle industry, which is one of Hawaii’s most important agricultural commodities, has been dramatically affected by the introduction of the invasive two-lined spittlebug. Since being detected in 2016, the pest now infects more than 125,900 acres of grassland and is clearing lands for invasives grasses that further affect Hawaii’s ecosystems.

Yet despite the incontrovertible and growing impacts of external species on Hawaii’s natural resources and economy, existing federal laws leave Hawaii largely defenseless against increasingly destructive invasives. Imports by air and sea, the only means of inbound transportation to our island state, lack any effective regulation to screen out invasives. This is despite a fairly robust screening of exports from Hawaii to the Continental United States to screen out invasives from Hawaii that are harmful to mainland agriculture (invasives that, ironically, were invasives into Hawaii to start with).

I sought to crack down on this lax regime to prevent and curb invasives with my introduction in 2005 of H.R. 3468, modeled after New Zealand and other isolated jurisdictions with then like now the most stringent invasive species prevention regimes in the world. Since the introduction of that bill, the threats from invasives have only grown. Since 2005, 195 invasive species have been introduced to Hawaii. That is in addition to the roughly 5,000 invasive species that have been introduced to Hawaii throughout its history.

Our bill, the Hawaii Invasive Species Protection Act, will require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with other federal departments and the State of Hawaii, to conduct visual, x-ray and canine inspections, as appropriate, on person, baggage, cargo and any other article destined for direct importation to Hawaii. The inspections will screen for high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials. The inspections will be conducted at airports, ports and postal sorting facilities prior to direct travel to the State of Hawaii.

Our bill further requires APHIS to work with the State of Hawaii to develop and publish a list of the high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials for the State of Hawaii. It pays for these inspections by increasing Agriculture Quarantine fees to cover the full cost of inspection.

Inaction is not an option. Since my re-introduction of this bill last Congress, the coffee berry borer, which was discovered in Kona on Hawaii Island in 2010, now infects all of the coffee producing regions in Hawaii. The coffee berry borer can cause yield losses of between 30 and 35 percent and affects the quality of the coffee beans, directly impacting the income of growers. Had this bill been implemented, it may have helped prevent coffee leaf rust from entering Hawaii late last year. The confirmed presence of this fungal disease, which can lead to yield losses of between 50 and 80 percent, on multiple Hawaiian islands could leave one of Hawaii’s most iconic industries devastated.

If we truly care about the threat that continues and escalates invasive species pose to one of the most invaluable and unique ecosystems on earth, in addition to our unique economy and way of life, then the stark reality is that it will take action to prevent and curb invasives. We can only be effective in preventing and controlling invasives if we have a robust enforcement regime, especially at our borders, and if we have a comprehensive prevention strategy that will never be justified.

I seek the faces of brave young soldiers who have told me with pride in their eyes how much they love serving this country. To every service member and to our incredible military families: You are heroes, and you will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

I think of all the members of law enforcement who greet us wherever we go. At every hour of every day, they stand guard to keep our communities safe, and we are forever in their debt.

I have been moved by children I have visited in hospitals and foster care centers. Even as they fight difficult illnesses or face challenges, they bring such a joy to everyone they meet.

I remember the mothers who have battled the disease of Opioid Addiction and have overcome incredible hardships for love of their children.

I have been inspired by the devoted caregivers to babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, and communities that give these children the support and care they need to grow.

When I think about these meaningful experiences, I am humbled to have had the opportunity to represent a nation with such kind and generous people.

As the world continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, I thank all the nurses, doctors, healthcare professionals, manufacturing workers, truck drivers, and so many others who are working to save lives.

We grieve for the families who have lost a loved one due to the pandemic.

Every life is precious, and I ask all Americans to use caution and common sense to protect the vulnerable as millions of vaccines are now being delivered.

In the midst of this hardship, we have seen the best of America shine through. Students have made cards and delivered groceries to our Senior Citizens. Teachers have worked twice as hard to keep our children learning.

Families have come together to provide meals, supplies, comfort and friendship to those in need.

Be passionate in everything you do but always remember that violence is never the answer and will never be justified.

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, American Families have been blessed the last four years with the service of First Lady Melania Trump.

As we celebrated this New Year in Australia, a beautiful new nation liberated by the American Victory in the Cold War inspired by Ronald Reagan, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Pope John Paul II of Poland

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Farewell Message of First Lady Melania Trump of January 18, 2021, which is to be treasured.

My fellow Americans, it has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as First Lady of the United States.

I have been inspired by incredible Americans across our country who lift up our communities through their kindness and courage, goodness and grace.

Every past four years have been unforgettable. As Donald and I conclude our time in the White House, I think of all the people I have taken home in my heart and their priorities of love, patriotism, and determination.

I see the faces of brave young soldiers who have told me with pride in their eyes how much they love serving this country. To every service member and to our incredible military families: You are heroes, and you will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

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Be passionate in everything you do but always remember that violence is never the answer and will never be justified.
When I came to the White House, I reflected on the responsibility I have always felt as a mother to encourage, give strength, and teach values of kindness. It is our duty as adults to do everything we can to take care of the next generation. Be Best has concentrated on three pillars: well-being, online safety, and opioid abuse. In a few short years, I have raised awareness of how to keep children safe online; we have made incredible progress on our nation’s drug epidemic and how it impacts the lives of families, and we have given a voice to our most vulnerable children in the foster care system.

Internationally, Be Best has evolved into a platform that encourages world leaders to discuss issues impacting the lives of children and allows them to share solutions. It has been an honor to represent the American people abroad. Each of my experiences and the inspiring people I have met along the way.

As I look forward to my role as First Lady, it is my sincere hope that every American will do their part to teach our children what it means to Be Best. I ask parents to educate your children about the courageous and selfless heroes who lived and sacrificed to make this country the land of the free. And to lead by example and care for others in your community.

The promise of this Nation belongs to all of us. Do not lose sight of your integrity and values. Use every opportunity to show consideration for another person and build good habits into your daily lives.

In all circumstances, I ask every American to be an ambassador of Be Best. To focus on what unites us. To rise above what divides us. To always choose love over hatred, peace over violence, and others before yourself.

Together as one, we can continue to be the light of hope for future generations and carry on America’s legacy of raising our nation to greater heights through our spirit of courage, goodness and faith.

No words can express the depth of my gratitude for the privilege of having served as your First Lady.

To all the people of this country: You will be in my heart forever.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNTSVILLE BEING ESTABLISHED IN TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Huntsville being established and incorporated into the state of Tennessee.

Officially established on January 21st in the year 1871, Huntsville County takes its name from the legendary slave, who, among many things, served as the first member of Congress from the 7th district of Tennessee. Like its namesake, Huntsville County embodies the spirit of American grit and perseverance. From the stoked lime kilns of days past to the thriving timber industry of today, Huntsville County continues to foster a strong and proud community.

Over its long history, Huntsville County has endeavored to faithfully honor the heritage of the Irish pioneers who settled the land through the annual Irish Day Parade. One of my favorite events of the Irish Day Parade, now draws over 30,000 people to Erin. The scenic countryside of Houston County is home to gently flowing creeks and streams, rolling hills and forests, and a vibrant community with a little bit of Ireland in its soul.

Houston County is home to many of Tennessee’s finest citizens, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Houston County on this impressive anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MOLLY HAMMMER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a sadness I struggle to express on behalf of a community that has lost a voice, a city that has lost a leader, and a family that has lost a friend. I rise to honor the life and memory of Molly Hammer. Molly spent years gracing Kansas City and the world with a one-of-a-kind voice and an indomitable spirit. For thirteen of those years, she did so while sharing her life with metastatic breast cancer. On Thursday, November 26, she lost her battle with breast cancer. She was forty-eight years old. Her story, cut tragically short, is of a soul who sought to use her gifts to spread joy and to use her hardships to inspire hope. For fifteen years, Molly sang for us. Today, we sing for her.

Those lucky enough to have followed Molly’s career since its beginning know that the talent, work ethic, and grit she displayed in the final years of her life were nothing new. Her high school choir teacher remembers her astounding professionalism while playing the narrator in her high school’s production of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. After graduating, she went on to become a stage actor and portrayed Patsy Cline on a stage in Iowa for five years. In 2005, Molly answered a fateful call from a difficult industry where she could have the complete independence she craved—jazz and blues. And thank goodness she did. It was then that she dove into an intense study of vocal jazz and began an illustrious career in the Kansas City music community. Molly soon became a fixture of the 18th & Vine jazz scene, winning the 2016 Critics’ Choice for Best Jazz Singer award from The Pitch, releasing four LPs—one just three months after the disease. She called for increased research into breast cancer and set an award named after her that honors the next generation of performers who speak for women as Molly did.

Molly Hammer was an artist in every sense of the word. She touched the lives of many.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize my District Chief of Staff, Rick Sense, for his service to Wisconsin’s Eighth District. He began his career with us in the House of Representatives in January 2014. He has worked tirelessly to fulfill the mission of my office. Despite being a Cubs fan, Rick is a valuable asset to Northeast Wisconsin whose work has touched the lives of many.

Additionally, Rick has inspired the next generation of leaders. Through patient instruction and mentorship, interns and staff who have worked with Rick have moved on to employments with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as Member offices in this Chamber, creating a ripple of change that will surely leave positive impacts in the future.

I wish Rick the best as he begins his new role with the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. I am sure he will excel in this new positon, bringing with him a deep dedication to servant leadership and desire to foster collaboration amongst Wisconsin’s business community.

Politics can be a difficult world to navigate. Rick brings to it a compassion and respect that provides a constant reminder to us all of why we choose to serve this great nation. I’d like to close with a quote from former president, Abraham Lincoln. “With malice toward none, with charity for all.” Rick truly embodies these words, and I am proud to have served in this fine institution with him.

HONORING RICK SENSE’S SERVICE TO WISCONSIN’S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize my District Chief of Staff, Rick Sense, for his service to Wisconsin’s Eighth District. He began his career with the U.S. House of Representatives in January of 2011 in the office of my predecessor, Congressman Reid Ribble. He then continued his service as my District Chief of Staff, serving with me in the 115th and 116th Congress, until he left working with us in the House to come to an end here in 117th Congress.

Rick has dedicated his Congressional career to providing superior service to the con-
all over the country and all over the world, Molly, I am proud to say, was devoted to Kansas City, and more specifically to the Kansas City music community. She supported organizations like GUILDit, which seeks to connect the world of music to the world of business to help artists. Her commitment to her community was unwavering, and even when she was diagnosed, she had no health insurance—a tragically common phenomenon among independent artists. And recently, she chose to donate the proceeds from her albums to the Midwest Music Foundation, ensuring that her giving spirit will continue to touch artists in her community for years to come.

I have always been struck by Molly’s ability to play any room at all. Molly sang the National Anthem at Arrowhead Stadium. Molly sang it at Kauffman Stadium. Molly sang at the Kauffman Center. Molly sang at the Folly Theater. And yet, even when her fight with cancer was at its most painful ebb, Molly got out every single weekend and brought her voice and her presence to local jazz clubs and Unity churches throughout Kansas City. When the pandemic struck, dealing a crushing blow to musicians everywhere, Molly was online from her living room. On stage with a microphone in hand and a piano to sing beside—that’s where Molly felt at home. She used to say it was because music fed her soul. I hope Molly knew that her music fed our souls, as well.

Today, my heart is with Molly’s family and friends, who are coping with a loss no amount of preparation could have softened. To Molly’s parents, I say this: we are never prepared to outlive our children. I hope you take comfort in that you were able to see Molly exhibit a resilience that every parent hopes their child will have when they send them out into what can be an unfair and unforgiving world. Scripture tells us, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” Molly’s story, to me, is a story of service. Molly was given the gift of a singular voice and a presence that could light up jazz club, a concert hall, or a stadium, and she used it to bring joy and music to others. Molly was dealt a terrible disease, and she used it to bring awareness and comfort to those fighting alongside her. Molly administered God’s grace in one of its most breathtaking forms, and she did so for all of us.

Jazz is about many things. It is about finding beauty where there is pain. It is about finding freedom where there are shackles. But at a musical level, jazz is about setting up rules, so they can then be broken. It is about establishing a rhythm, so that it can be defied. Madam Speaker, I reckon with this loss, I take comfort in Molly’s presence. I reckon with the unrelenting rhythm of this mortal world and taken her place among a choir of angels. There is piano somewhere in heaven that has been waiting for Molly, and I know that today, she is singing beside it.

So, Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of Molly Hammer. Though she may never return to the stages where we’ve seen her before, today Molly joins a pantheon of jazz greats whose music echoes through time. Artists never really die, and I would often sing at the end of her concerts, “And spend the next eternity or two with you.”

HONORING JOSEPH A. MYERS
HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021
Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I arise today, with my colleague Congressman Mike THOMPSON, in memory of Joseph A. Myers, who passed away on December 29, 2020.

Born January 16, 1940 in Cloverdale, Mr. Myers was a native Yurok Indian. He began his career as a law enforcement officer and was the first known California Indian to serve in the California Highway Patrol. He earned both his undergraduate degree and Juris Doctor from UC Berkeley.

Mr. Myers became a revered leader in the Native American community and developed a reputation for working effectively to preserve Native American history through education and activism. He served as the Associate Director of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program where he mentored advocates on tribal law, and notably joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs that successfully reversed the termination of 17 Rancheria communities in California. Mr. Myers later founded the National Indian Justice Center to help tribes strengthen governance capacity and improve the quality of life in Indian country. He was also a founding board member of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center.

Mr. Myers shared his knowledge of Native American issues at UC Berkley as a professor in the ethnic studies department. The University named the Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native Issues as a tribute to Mr. Myers contributions to the community including the Native American students on campus.

Along with his hard work ethic and commitment to making a positive difference for others, Mr. Myers was known for his good sense of humor, compassion and wit. Although he is already greatly missed, there is no doubt his legacy will continue to be an inspiration for many.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join Congressman Mike THOMPSON and me in expressing deep gratitude for Mr. Myers and his many years of selfless service to the Native American community and the entire North Coast, and in extending condolences to his family and many friends.

HONORING KELLY WALTERS
HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021
Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Kelly Brice Walters of Christiansburg, Virginia, who passed away on September 26, 2020 at the age of 84. Mr. Walters was a first responder who committed his life to providing and improving emergency services in the New River Valley.

Kelly Walters was born on September 16, 1936 in Rogers, Virginia, to Vada McGuire and her husband. Mr. Walters began his career as a first responder in 1964 with the Christiansburg Lifesaving and First Aid Crew. In this organization, later the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, he served as Captain, First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant, Treasurer, and President of the Board of Directors. He helped launch rescue squads in Floyd County and Riner in Montgomery County. In the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, he served as the Board’s Vice President twice and ultimately as President and was also honored in its Hall of Fame.

Colleagues and community members remember Mr. Walters for his kindness and dedication to the emergency services. They told the Roanoke Times about his willingness to help coworkers with bills without expecting repayment or to pay for EMT certifications for others before the state reimbursed such expenses. Many colleagues looked upon him as a mentor.

In addition to his work with the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, Mr. Walters worked earlier life at the Blue Ridge Overall Factory, Cromer Furniture, and as caretaker of the Cemetery Corporation. He also served for eighteen years as Montgomery County’s Animal Control Officer. Apart from these responsibilities, he was a member of the Christiansburg Hunting Club, which he served as President and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Walters was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Gerald Walters. He is survived by his daughter Nancy; grandson Bradley Hutchens; great-grandchildren Elizabeth Ann and Halley Jo; sisters Brenda Thomas, Shirley Bartlett, and Jean Walters; and sister-in-law Jane Akers. I would like to offer my condolences to them and the people of Christiansburg on the loss of this dedicated public servant.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BICYCLE COMMUTER ACT OF 2021
HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021
Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Bicycle Commuter Act of 2021. This legislation passed the House last session in Section 90436 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would reinstate and improve the bicycle commuter tax benefit.

The bicycle is the most efficient form of urban transportation ever devised. Cycling reduces carbon emissions, provides enormous physical and mental health benefits, and is one of the most cost-effective modes of transportation available. Communities across the country have realized these benefits and substantially invested in building better bike networks and improving facilities for biking to work. These investments are one of the reasons that rates of biking to work have increased by more than one-third since 2000. Still, however, only 0.51 percent of workers biked to work in 2019.

Despite these impressive developments, there is no commuter tax benefit for biking to work—like we have for parking and transit. First enacted in 2009, the bicycle commuter benefit covered taxes on more than one-third of workers. Employers could offer to provide a reimbursement of up to $20/month for expenses relating to bicycle commuting expenses. But if an employee elected
to take advantage of the bicycle commuting reimbursement, they were not eligible to receive transit or parking commuter benefits. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act suspended the bicycle commuting reimbursement benefit through 2025, taking away a valuable financial incentive for people who choose to bike to work.

With more employees choosing to bike to work, it is critical that Congress reinstates the bicycle commuter benefit and uses this opportunity to improve the benefit to reflect present-day commuting options. The Bicycle Commuter Act of 2021 reinstates the bicycle commuter benefit and changes the structure of the benefit by making it a pre-tax benefit, allowing employees to receive a higher benefit amount, allowing the benefit to be used with parking and transit, and adding bikeshare and electric bikes as an eligible expense.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and provide Americans with cleaner, more efficient ways of commuting to work.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SEAN D. FOSTER
HON. JOHN R. CURTIS
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Sean D. Foster on his retirement from the Army. LTC Foster's remarkable career spans nearly three decades of distinguished service in defense of our nation.

LTC Foster's career started in the Army National Guard, where he enlisted as a Tank Crewman. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer upon graduation. After serving for five years in the Infantry, including a year-long deployment to Iraq, LTC Foster attended law school and became a Judge Advocate through the Army's Funded Legal Education Program.

LTC Foster's career as a Judge Advocate has been truly exemplary. He immediately established himself as a criminal law expert and served in prosecutorial and defense capacities to ensure the fair administration of justice. Notably, LTC Foster was also selected to serve as the lead defense attorney for a general officer in a historic courtmartial that garnered national attention.

From 2014 to 2016, LTC Foster served in the Special Operations Community, deploying to Germany and Afghanistan. As the Group Judge Advocate for the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colorado, LTC Foster directly supported the development of more than 60 complex special operations missions in 13 countries. LTC Foster's commitment to participate in the Army's Congressional Fellowship program in 2016. He earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University and worked as a Fellow in the U.S. Senate. In 2018, he continued on as a Legislative Counsel in the Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, and also served as the Chief of the Army's Congressional Response team. As a Legislative Counsel, LTC Foster led multiple congressional delegations worldwide, and I can personally attest to his excellent leadership and communication skills from my own experience participating in delegations led by LTC Foster.

LTC Foster has compiled an outstanding record of significant contributions to the Army over the past 27 years and has unceasingly demonstrated the highest standards of commitment and duty. His service to our great country is indeed a gift to the American people. I thank LTC Foster and wish him and his family the very best on this occasion of his retirement.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Wikipedia on the 20th anniversary of its founding on January 15, 2001. The organization has developed a flourishing, free, and accessible home for the world's knowledge and has become an indispensable part of our lives.

While encyclopedias have long relied on a small number of academics and experts to write and update information, Wikipedia leverages a voluntary, community-based approach that has allowed the product to expand to cover an extraordinary array of topics that has worldwide scale, well beyond what all previous encyclopedias could cover, combined. To date, Wikipedias have created an astonishing 175 million pages that are visited by two billion unique devices per month.

The world-class team of people... employees and volunteers that administer Wikipedia, are a major reason why the project has been such a success, and I'm proud that many of my constituents are part of this group.

Wikipedia's success is also due to the fact that it is managed by a values-driven nonprofit organization, the Wikimedia Foundation. Wikipedia is a large part of the reason we all have the world's information at our fingertips and it's a privilege to congratulate Wikipedia on celebrating 20 years of informing the world.

A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER
HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON. Madam Speaker, I was grateful to represent South Carolina's Second Congressional District at yesterday's inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris and to join my colleagues to witness this historic event.

I appreciate the Capitol Police, National Guard, Secret Service, and troop support officers who worked to ensure our security and a peaceful transition of power. The South Carolina National Army National Guard was ably led by Colonel Edward Cloyd including Second District Congressional Office District 1Lt. Alex Morris.

Moving forward, it's time to keep working to whatever is best for the country. Americans still need a way out of this Wuhan pandemic, job growth, and continued support for our men and women in uniform. Having traveled with Senator Biden on deployment to Belgium, I know firsthand he can seek unity.

Best wishes Congresswoman-Elect Claudia Tenney, fighting for a fair election. In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.
Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of one of Detroit’s longest-serving fraternal and service organizations, Palestine Lodge No. 357 F.& A.M.

Founded January 26, 1881, Detroit’s Palestine Masonic Lodge has operated for one hundred forty years. The Palestine Lodge can count among its past members many high-profile residents, including James Vernor, originator of Vernor’s Ginger Ale, a Detroit staple, and automotive pioneer Henry Ford. More recently, the Palestine Lodge, in affiliation with the Michigan Masons, has helped make significant contributions to its charitable foundation to make meaningful impacts on the lives of countless Michigan residents. These actions are not limited to its scholarship programs for students, its bikes for books child literacy incentive program, as well as its S.A.Y. Detroit tutoring and literacy program. In addition, the Palestine Lodge members give countless hours of volunteer time on local community initiatives. Please join me in recognizing Detroit’s Palestine Lodge No. 357 F. & A. M.’s many contributions to the residents of Michigan and the 13th Congressional District over the past one hundred forty years.

AYUDA ACT OF 2021

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Assuring You Uniform Dietary Assistance (AYUDA) Act, making the Northern Mariana Islands part of the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). My bill ensures individuals and families in our island who rely on this help to put food on the table are treated equitably and receive similar levels of assistance available in other parts of our nation.

Inclusion in SNAP for the people I represent remains a priority goal for me. I first introduced the AYUDA Act in the 112th Congress. And in the years since, a pilot program has demonstrated the feasibility of including the Northern Marianas in SNAP. Taking this action will avoid future disruption in vital food aid. And it will relieve the administrative burden on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to manage a one-off, block grant for our islands when right next door in the U.S. territory of Guam SNAP works perfectly well.

The current block grant approach to food aid for the Northern Marianas continues to reduce assistance to those in need compared to other Americans. Because the arbitrarily capped block grant funds do not automatically respond to changing economic conditions, families in need face the prospect that their benefits will be reduced or cut off completely.

In fact, just last October, the Commonwealth government stated it had no choice but to remove households from eligibility for the new fiscal year due to insufficient funds. Moreover, benefits were substantially cut by 25 percent on October 1, 2020. The time has now come to right the disparity that keeps the majority-minority community I represent excluded from this critical safety net program that has kept millions of Americans from going hungry during the COVID–19 pandemic.

At a time when the Marianas economy continues to be shut due to the coronavirus crisis, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that those in need are not treated differently simply because of where they live in America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE AND QUIET SKIES ACT

HON. ED CASE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing my Safe and Quiet Skies Act from the 116th Congress to ensure that commercial aircraft operations are regulated to ensure in-air and on-ground safety and address widespread and accelerating community disruption. I extend a special thanks to my colleagues, Congressmembers NADLER, NÉGUSE, NORTON, SHERMAN, and SIKES, for co-introducing this measure.

In 2019 alone, there were 17 sightseeing tour flight and skydiving accidents nationwide with 37 tragic deaths from six of those crashes. In my Hawaii alone, we saw three dead in the crash of a commercial air tour helicopter into a residential neighborhood, eleven more dead in the crash of a commercial skydiving plane, and then seven more dead in a commercial air tour helicopter crash in a remote mountain region. Many other areas of the country have been equally impacted, especially those with high commercial usage, more dense populations, valuable natural resources, significant defense installations and other factors.

These tragedies occurred amidst a rapid increase in commercial helicopter and small plane overflights including residential, commercial, and industrial neighborhoods, cemeteries and memorials, land and marine parks and other recreation areas, and sensitive military installations. These have disrupted whole communities with excessive noise and other impacts, destroyed the peace and sanctity of special places, increased risk to not only passengers but those on the ground, and weakened security and management of defense operations.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) currently has virtually exclusive jurisdiction over these aircraft operations. Following these and other recent tragedies across the country, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is responsible for investigating accidents but not for direct safety regulation, strongly recommended to the FAA that safety-related regulation of commercial tour helicopter and skydiving operations is generally insufficient.

Regarding ground disruption and risk, the FAA takes the position that its responsibility is strictly operational safety and national airspace efficiency and does not extend to ground disruption and other negative impacts. As a result, the operators, aside from strict takeoff and approach, avoidance of established flight paths and other limited circumstances, are virtually free to fly wherever, whenever, and as often as they want. And they do, with little to no self-regulation.

This situation is unacceptable for both safety and community impact concerns. It is also unjustified for Hawaii, which has concerns in other areas with high commercial tour usage, more dense populations, valuable natural resources, significant defense installations and other factors.

This bill would first require the FAA to implement the NTSB’s recommended enhanced safety regulations. It would also prohibit flights over federal property that requires privacy, dignity, and respect, to include military installations, national cemeteries and national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness. It would further require the use of standard equipment to monitor the location of flights, apply the “sterile cockpit rule” to tour flights (meaning in part that the pilot could not also be the tour guide), prohibit flights lower than 1,500 feet over actual ground, and limit those commonly applied to operations in residential areas. Additionally, the bill would allow states, localities, and tribes to impose stricter regulations on tour flights in their jurisdictions with required public engagement.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill into law.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILEY DECK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor a great American and steadfast public servant. James Wiley Deck is leaving the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) after having served in critically important roles of increasing responsibility over the last four years. A polished leader and expert communicator, Wiley worked tirelessly throughout his time at DOT to make our nation’s roadways safe and save lives on our nation’s roadways while helping to build the infrastructure needed to accommodate the future of American transportation.

Wiley joined DOT in 2017 as the Director of Government Relations for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). While in this role, he served as the principal advisor to the FMCSA Administrator with respect to legislative affairs, Congressional relations, and all policy matters affecting Federal, state and local governments, as well as public and private interest groups. His innate ability to collaborate with a variety of government stakeholders led to multiple legislative successes—including the securing of $100 million in autonomous vehicle research and development funding for DOT.

In 2019, Wiley transitioned to the Office of the Secretary, where he served as Senior Policy Advisor to Secretary Elaine L. Chao. In that role, he served as the principal strategic advisor to the DOT Secretary on issues pertaining not only to the FMCSA, but to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Office of Drug and Alcohol
Policy and Compliance (ODAPC). He served as the Department’s representative on the White House COVID–19 Supply Chain Task Force and the White House Food Supply Chain Policy Coordinating Committee, where he helped shape the Federal response to the pandemic. He also led the Department’s efforts to complete the National Strategic Plan to guide strategic Federal initiatives for multimodal investments to reduce congestion and improve intermodal connectivity.

In 2020, Secretary Chao asked Wiley to lead FMCSA. As Acting Administrator of a Federal agency with a $680 million budget and nearly 1200 employees, Wiley led the implementation efforts on two significant regulatory reform efforts: Hours of Service and the Definition of Agricultural Commodities, two issues which are of vital importance to my Congressional District. More importantly, however, he diligently worked with Congress to secure $30 million in Federal funding for a new Large Truck Crash Causal Factors Study. The last comprehensive large truck crash causation study provided the DOT, and safety researchers with the valuable insight into the factors which contribute to crashes involving at least one commercial motor vehicle, but the data was collected nearly 20 years ago. A new updated study—one that accounts for the changes in technology, vehicle safety, driver behavior and roadway design over the last two decades—is sorely needed and will serve as Wiley’s lasting legacy in the Department.

Prior to transitioning to DOT, Wiley served for 22 years on the staff of my friend and the former Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Congressman John L. Mica of Florida, the last six as his Chief of Staff. He is also a proud graduate of the University of Central Florida, although I would remind the Speaker that the last time UCF played my alma mater, Virginia Tech, in football was August 31, 2003, and Virginia Tech won 49–28.

Wiley, his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children, Emilia and Enslie, live in Stafford, VA.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie for his service to our country. Last Thursday, the VA shared a review by Secretary Wilkie, discussing recent accomplishments. Wilkie writes that, “. . . over the last few years, VA was reborn. Today our approval rating stands at about 90 percent for health care, and among our fastest growing population—women—we have an 86 percent approval rating.”

“Recent studies show VA measures up to the private sector on access and quality. Veterans liked what they saw and started voting with their feet. VA completed a record number of appointments in fiscal year 2019—59 million—the same year the MISSION Act took effect. The more Veterans we served, the more Veterans trusted us. Trust in VA care hit a record high in April 2020.”

“VA achieved what all the experts in Washington said was impossible by rolling out a modernized health record that will make it easier than ever for health professionals to access Veterans’ medical history.”

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I appreciate Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie for his service to our country. Last Thursday, the VA shared a review by Secretary Wilkie, discussing recent accomplishments. Wilkie writes that, “. . . over the last few years, VA was reborn. Today our approval rating stands at about 90 percent for health care, and among our fastest growing population—women—we have an 86 percent approval rating.”

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“VA achieved what all the experts in Washington said was impossible by rolling out a modernized health record that will make it easier than ever for health professionals to access Veterans’ medical history.”
mainstays of a proud and historic community. However, the Chamber’s extensive catalog of events engages with all sorts of communities. Its organization and sponsorship of events like the annual Halloween parade, a weekly Foodie Friday that promotes local restaurants, and the SantaCon Days Festival bring joy and warm memories to those fortunate enough to call Independence home. And as the current public health crisis continues to pose unprecedented challenges and difficult decisions to small businesses, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has risen to meet the moment. It has reimagined how to help local businesses and continues to serve as a vital resource for those navigating the narrow waters between a struggling economy and a lethal virus. Additionally, the Chamber’s concerted effort to spread awareness about various COVID–19 relief funds has been the difference, for many family-owned businesses, between surviving a difficult year and being forced to close. In short, the Chamber’s work has ensured that President Truman’s hometown will continue to grow and prosper when the pandemic subsides.

However, the Chamber’s work extends far beyond Independence city limits. Its annual lobbying day in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. helps promote policies necessary for robust business growth and economic development throughout the state of Missouri, but across the entire country. And as this year has placed a renewed and long-overdue emphasis on community-owned broadband service, affordable quality housing, and neighborhood inclusivity, the Chamber has been an effective advocate for many of the ideas that inspired me to run for City Council, for Mayor, and then for Congress. Through their advocacy, the Chamber has initiated and supported several infrastructure developments and neighborhood revitalization projects that have benefitted a broad coalition of communities. It recognizes that policies that are good for hardworking individuals in all kinds of communities are also good for businesses, and I look forward to our continued partnership as we support Missouri families. But as I mentioned, it is not just the Chamber’s mission, but also its presence, that has tangible positive effects on the district I represent.

With every educational seminar, a small business owner gains an opportunity to innovate and incorporate new ways to grow their business. With every networking event, the Chamber connects leaders who can collaborate and form symbiotic partnerships that benefit all of us. With every ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony, the Chamber offers a business the vital publicity and web of support needed to grow and succeed. Running a business is hard. But for one hundred years, the Independence Chamber has made it easier for the aspirational among us to capitalize on the same entrepreneurial spirit that made the American economy the envy of the world. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the current and former staff members who have organized the daily activities of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, as well as all the past and present members of the Chamber’s Board of Directors, who have worked as dedicated stewards of the thriving organization. The Independence Chamber of Commerce has brought together entrepreneurs and served as a stalwart of growth and resiliency for the past one hundred years. I have no doubt that they will continue this important work over the next century and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN MCCARTHY’S 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER MEIJER
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and service of long-time Michigan resident, Mrs. Karen McCarthy. After 37 years, Mrs. McCarthy begins a well-deserved retirement after decades of public service to our local communities, and she will certainly be missed by the countless West Michiganders that she has helped and worked alongside over these many years. Mrs. McCarthy worked in community affairs for Consumers Energy, and she most recently served as Community Affairs Manager in Kent County, based in Grand Rapids. In that role, she was responsible for local government and community relations, charitable giving, and economic development throughout Kent County.

It is difficult to overstate Mrs. McCarthy’s connection to our community. Along with her work at Consumers Energy, she has served on numerous local committees and spent her personal time volunteering with organizations dedicated to combating poverty and empowering women and girls. Her compassionate spirit, service to the public, and strong work ethic have made her an essential piece of West Michigan society.

Mrs. McCarthy’s passion for serving others and dedication to her community have left a lasting impact, and we hope that her example will inspire younger generations to feel a similar call to public service. We wish her a joyful and peaceful retirement with her family and friends, and we remain grateful for her contributions that have improved the lives of so many of her fellow West Michiganders.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending Mrs. McCarthy for her service and her long career helping the people of the great state of Michigan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD FRANCIS DWYER

HON. DARIN LaHOOD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Ronald Francis Dwyer, who passed away on December 24, 2020, at the age of 77 after an eight-year battle with cancer.

Born in Edwards, Illinois in 1943, Ron displayed natural gravitation towards community and teaching. Ron worked in education for 46 years as a teacher/counselor, coach, and principal for Spalding High School, Limestone High School, East Peoria High School, Notre Dame High School, Armstrong Oakview Grade School in East Peoria, Paul Bolin Grade School in East Peoria and Central Junior High School in East Peoria. After he retired from 23 years in public schools and 23 years in private schools, Ron began serving for three years as a bailiff for the Peoria County Court House. Ron spent 21 years as a sports official in basketball, baseball, and football. Ron is a member of the Peoria Sports Officials Hall of Fame.

Ron was a man of deep faith and a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Kickapoo, Illinois, where he belonged to Bishop Rosati Council of the Knights of Columbus. Ron’s devout service awarded him the PRO Ecclesia ET Pontifici Medallion from the Diocese of Peoria in 2000, the Peoria Notre Dame Foundation award in 2004, and the Alumni of the Year Award in 2017. The religious values and foundation of faith instilled through Ron’s teachings will continue to strengthen our community for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEXIS PAULSEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen, the daughter of Toby Hauck, President of the Air Traffic Controllers Local ZAU and an Illinois resident. Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen was born September 14, 1992, at Scott AFB, Illinois and died Monday, January 18, 2021, in Clare, Illinois, at the age of 28.

Alexis graduated from Hiawatha High School in 2011 in Kirkland, IL. Throughout high school Alexis participated in volleyball, basketball, softball and FFA. She was a member of the County Progressors 4-H Club and showed livestock at the Boone County Fair. After graduation, she took classes at Kishwaukee College. Alexis was a member of Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb. Alexis enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She loved meeting new people. She married Matthew on May 23, 2015. They spent their married life in the home she thrived in maintaining a loving home for her husband and sons. Her favorite thing in life was being a stay at home mom to her two boys.

Alexis is survived by her husband, Matthew; sons, Fredrick and Franklin; parents, Lori Jackson and Derrick Lander, Toby and Darla Hauck; parents-in-law, Jeff and Lauri Paulsen; brother, Dylan (Jasmine) Hauck; brothers-in-law, Tim (Cassie) Paulsen and Chris (Katie) Paulsen; nieces, Makayla Hauck, Olivia, Nola, and Brielle Paulsen; grandparents, Ann Carrel, Roger and Marilyn Jackson, Fred and Barb Hauck, Leanna Kacmarek, Betty Paulsen, Carol and Terry Dyer, and David and Eena Lundberg; and 16 aunts and uncles. Alexis is preceded in death by her grandparents, Mort Carrel and Adolph Paulsen.

My deepest condolences to the Paulsen and Hauck families. This is indeed a tragic time, but also a time of reflection and hope. I am often reminded, “the pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered, there is opportunity for growth and healing.” May the Lord give you that strength during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD FRANCIS DWYER

HON. DARIN LaHOOD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

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INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE INSURRECTIONIST ATTACK UPON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the National Commission on the Insurrectionist Attack Upon the United States Capitol Act, which would create a national commission to provide a complete account surrounding the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, including preparedness and response. The commission would also present recommendations on how to protect our country from future attacks. My bill is modeled on the bipartisanship that created a national commission to investigate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

What happened on January 6, 2021, is no less grave, no less revealing than what happened to our country in 2001. In 2001, we realized that we were woefully unprepared for a foreign terrorist attack. The bipartisan national commission created by Congress conducted an unbiased investigation and helped us improve our defenses against international threats.

Now we are faced with another threat, but this one does not come from outside, it comes from people who ransacked and defaced the U.S. Capitol, the people who threatened elected officials trying to fulfill their constitutional duty were not foreigners; they were Americans. In order to tackle this new internal threat to our democracy, we must understand it, and we cannot understand it without investigating how this attack on the U.S. Capitol occurred.

The commission created by my bill would draw upon all available evidence and prior investigations to generate a full and complete accounting of the circumstances of the attack and the country’s preparedness for and immediate response to the attack. This commission must be above the fray of politics to give us clear answers on what happened on January 6th. The American people deserve unbiased answers.

What happened is deeply personal for me and for many who live or grew up in the District of Columbia, where the U.S. Capitol is located. We all recognize the U.S. Capitol as a sacred symbol of democracy, but domestic terrorists came into my hometown and wreaked mayhem on our federal governing institutions. The commission would provide definitive answers to help Congress determine policies to ward off such attacks in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ADOLPH FLOYD GONELLA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a distinguished American and a brother-friend, Adolph Floyd Gonella, Ph.D., who was born on November 1, 1933 in San Mateo County, California, and passed away on January 4, 2021, at the age of 87. Floyd Gonella was the son of Amedeo and Margherita Gonella who were immigrants from Italy. His father was a farmer who raised cabbage and artichokes. Floyd’s family lived humbly and he learned from them the value of hard work and service to others. He experienced anti-Italian discrimination during World War II when they were declared enemy aliens and placed under curfew as residents of a coastal county. This contributed to his empathy and passion for helping the disadvantaged among us.

Dr. Gonella earned his degree in education and several teaching certificates from San Francisco State where he was a star football player, and he earned a doctorate in education at the University of California, Berkeley. His distinguished career included service as an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University, and as Superintendent of the Jefferson Union High School District. He went on to be elected to three 4-year terms as the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and was considered an “Educator by everyone.”

Dr. Gonella retired as County Superintendent of Schools in 2003 and stepped up to become Superintendent of East Palo Alto’s bankrupt Ravenswood City School District. Working with city, school and community leaders he revitalized the district and brought it to fiscal and educational health. He then went on to the dysfunctional Valletto City Unified School District where he and Superintendent Rick Damelio were successful in rescuing the district. In addition to assisting poorly performing school districts, Dr. Gonella and his wife, Margaret, created the Daly City Youth Health Center which has been providing services to low-income teens for thirty years.

Dr. Gonella earned many awards, including Coach of the Year in 1962 and the Fred Kiesel Distinguished Service Award. He served on the California Advisory Council on School Restructuring and was named Outstanding Alumnus by the San Francisco State Education Department. For three decades he served as Team Chair of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, frequently traveling to various Asian countries to accredit schools. He also led the Daly City Chamber of Commerce in an extensive membership drive.

Dr. Gonella gave generously of his time and considerable talents to the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council, the Criminal Justice Council, the San Mateo County AIDS Program Community Advisory Committee, the Junior Statesmen Foundation, the First 5 Commission, and the American Heart Association. In 2003, the County Office of Education honored him by naming its offices the Floyd Gonella Education Center.

Floyd Gonella was a decades-long friend and trusted advisor to me and beloved by my entire family. His compassion and care for those less privileged were a source of inspiration to all who had the good fortune to know him, and his expertise as an educator was unparalleled. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, worked with him, and called him friend. He leaves his wife, Margaret Taylor; his daughter, Michelle Gonella; his son, Michael Gonella (Chelsea and the Jordans), Nick and Alex; and his son, Stephen.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our condolences to Margaret Taylor and the entire Gonella family. Floyd Gonella lived a purposeful life, transforming the lives of countless students who he had great faith in. He made our community a better place to live in and learn, and he strengthened our country with his countless contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEAN OVERMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the exemplary leadership and faith-based work of Pastor Jean Overman, who has been recognized as the 2021 Pastor of the Year for the National Christians in Action.

Pastor Jean Overman has dedicated her entire life’s work to serving the people in her community in and around Inkster and Western Wayne County in Michigan’s 13th Congressional District. Her drive to serve for the good of our communities has had a profound impact on the lives of many. In addition to her pastoral duties and spiritual work, she serves as Executive Director of Operation Refuge, a local charitable organization that runs a number of programs to assist our most underserved populations. Its Mother’s Pantry program affords families emergency food assistance in a grocery store-style setting. And, its Camp Inspire, a summer STEM camp, is a catalyst to instill confidence in young women and inspire them to explore science and technology studies.

In short, Pastor Jean Overman is an advocate for social justice, uplifting issues around poverty, education, racial justice and more. Her work reflects her love of community and her passion for creating a better future for our families. Her commitment to help those in need is unwavering and truly reflective of what it means to live like Christ.

Pastor Jean Overman is a true public servant, and we are truly grateful for her advocacy and her work every day serving the district. Please join me in recognition of her outstanding achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROAD USER CHARGE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021. This legislation passed the
House last session in Section 5401 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and builds on the successful Surface Transportation Systems Funding Alternatives (STSFSA) program to further enhance national understanding and competencies in collecting a road user charge.

Increased vehicle fuel efficiency and a stagnant federal gas tax have encouraged increased demand on our transportation system without proportionately contributing to necessary maintenance and investment. In just a few years, the United States will no longer be able to finance our transportation system based on gallons of fuel consumed. Surface transportation faces significant funding challenges which have only deepened during the COVID–19 pandemic. The federal gas tax, unchanged since 1993, has lost more than 71 percent of its purchasing power due to inflation and fuel efficiency gains. As a result, Congress has transferred more than $153 billion in general fund revenues to prop up the Highway Trust Fund since 2008. Without new sources of revenue, or increasing existing sources, the total Highway Trust Fund shortfall is projected to reach nearly $190 billion in the next 10 years.

Two national transportation study commissions, authorized in 2005, named a road usage charge based on vehicle miles travelled (VMT) as the most promising revenue alternative to the gas tax and the “consensus choice” for the future. Since then, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming have operated or are operating pilot projects where drivers are charged for miles traveled as part of the STSFSA program.

The Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021 would reauthorize the STSFSA program through Fiscal Year 2025, increase the authorization amount to $35 million, and reduce the state match requirement to incentivize more states to participate. The legislation also includes annual reporting requirements to provide more frequent knowledge-sharing opportunities and provides special consideration for states that are collecting revenues in their pilot projects.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to advance this legislation as part of a surface transportation reauthorization package and provide communities with long-term funding certainty to meet their infrastructure needs.

IN HONOR OF MR. MARK SHIELDS OF PENNSYLVANIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BRENDA F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Shields, a United States Marine veteran and longtime American political commentator before the United States House of Representatives. Mr. Shields, a fellow alumnus of the University of Notre Dame, has led a fulfilling career that embodies a lifetime of journalistic integrity and American leadership.

Mr. Shields entered the political world in 1965 when he accepted a position to serve as Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire’s legislative assistant in Washington, DC. From there, Mr. Shields continued on his path in politics, serving on dozens of local, state, and national campaigns throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Mr. Shields is perhaps best known for his role as a trusted and engaging political commentator featured on programs including PBS “The NewsHour” and CNN’s “Capital Gang.” For 33 years, up until stepping back from his regular duties in December 2020, Mark Shields graced the American public with his thoughtful and expert political analysis on the “PBS NewsHour” program, where he reported on the facts and the news with principle and grace.

Mark Shields’ career continues to serve as a symbol for Americans nationwide who strive to follow their passions and seek to make a difference. Mr. Shields’ regular commentary on “PBS NewsHour” will certainly be missed—but never forgotten. I wish Mr. Shields and his family the best in their future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Mr. Mark Shields for his extraordinary contributions to our society.

DEPARTING ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

HON. JOE WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as President Donald Trump left office, he presented an address the evening before his departure correctly reviewing his achievements. I have had the opportunity to see his success firsthand.

Last January, I was in a bipartisan delegation to Poland and Israel. In Krakow citizens were grateful to President Trump placing American troops in Poland deterring Russian aggression. At the World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem, citizens were appreciative of President Trump. Previously, I led a House delegation for the historic opening in May 14, 2018, of the American Embassy in Jerusalem with President Trump fulfilling Promises Made Promises Kept.

Last February, I accompanied Senator Tim Scott and his mother, Frances Scott, to his hometown of North Charleston on Air Force One with President Trump where he highlighted his heartfelt success for American families of the lowest unemployment seen ever for African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans.

The Address of January 19, 2021, can be cherished by the 62,984,828 Trump supporters in 2016 carrying 86 percent of the nation’s counties, and by the 74,216,722 Trump supporters in 2020 resulting in South Carolina having the largest Republican majorities in 140 years.

“My fellow Americans, four years ago we launched a great national effort to rebuild our country, to renew its spirit, and to re-awaken the American dream for our citizens. In short, we embarked on a mission to make America great again for all Americans. As I conclude my term as the 45th President of the United States, I stand before you truly proud of what we have achieved together. We did what we came here to do, and so much more. This week we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck, a very important word.

“I’d like to begin by thanking just a few of the many wonderful people who made this possible. First, let me express my overwhelming gratitude for the love and support of our spectacular First Lady Melania. Let me also share my appreciation to my daughter, Ivanka, my son-in-law Jared, and to Baron, Don, Eric, Tiffany, and Lara. You fill my world with light and joy. I also want to thank Vice President Mike Pence, his wonderful wife, Karen, and the entire Pence family. Thank you as well to my chief of staff, Meadows, the dedicated members of the White House staff, and the cabinet, and all of the incredible people across our administration who poured out their heart and soul to fight for America.

“I also want to take a moment to thank a truly exceptional group of people, the United States Secret Service. I will forever be in your debt. My profound gratitude as well to everyone in the White House military office, the teams of Marine One and Air Force One, every one of our armed forces, and state and local law enforcement all across our country. Most of all, I want to thank the American people. To see how your president has been an honor beyond description. Thank you for this extraordinary privilege. And that’s what it is, a great privilege and a great honor. We must never forget that while Americans will always have our disagreements, we are a nation of incredible, decent, faithful, and peaceful loving citizens who all want our country to flourish and be very, very successful and good. We are a truly magnificent nation.

“A great American spirit was confirmed by the assault on our capital. Political violence is an attack on everything we cherish as Americans. It can never be tolerated. Now more than ever, we must unify across our shared values and rise above the partisan rancor and so much more. This week we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck, a very important word.

“America had given me so much and I wanted to give something back. Together with millions of hardworking Patriots across this land, we built the greatest political movement in the history of our country. We also built the greatest economy in the history of the world. It was about America first because we all want America great again. We restored the principle that a nation exists to serve its citizens. Our agenda was not about right or left. It wasn’t about Republican or Democrat, but about the good of a nation, and that means the whole nation. With the support and prayers of the American people, we achieved more than anyone thought possible. Nobody thought we could even come close. We passed the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history. We reversed job-killing regulations than any administration had ever done before.

“We fix our broken trade deals, withdrew from the horrible Iran Nuclear Agreement and the impossible Paris Climate Accord, renegotiated the one-sided South Korea deal.
And we replaced NAFTA with the groundbreaking USMCA, that’s Mexico and Canada, a deal that’s worked out very, very well. Also and very importantly, we imposed historically highest tariffs on China, which made a great new deal with China. But before the ink was even dry, we and the whole world got hit with the China virus.

"Our trade relationship was rapidly changing. Billions and billions of dollars were pouring into the US but the virus forced us to go in a different direction. Since China world suffered, but America outperformed other countries economically because of our incredible economy and the economy that we built. Our economy was the best, and it wouldn’t have worked out this way. We wouldn’t have some of the best numbers we’ve ever had. We also unlocked our energy resources and became the world’s largest producer of oil and natural gas by far. Powered by these policies, we built the greatest economy in the history of the world. We reigned America’s job creation and achieved record-low unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, women, almost everyone. Income soared, wages boomed. The American dream was restored and millions were lifted from poverty in just a few short years. It was a mitred.

The stock market set one record after another, with 148 stock market highs during the short period of time, and boosted the retirement funds of hardworking families. Doubled the child tax credit and signed the largest-ever expansion of funding for childcare and development. We joined with the private sector to secure commitments to train more than 16 million American workers for the jobs of tomorrow.

"When our nation was hit with the terrible pandemic, we produced not one, but two vaccines with record-breaking speed and more will quickly follow. They said it couldn’t be done, but we did it. They called it a medical miracle, that they’re right now, a medical miracle. Another administration would have taken three, four, five, maybe even up to 10 years to develop a vaccine. We made life better for working families, we doubled the child tax credit and signed the largest-ever expansion of funding for childcare and development. We joined with the private sector to secure commitments to train more than 16 million American workers for the jobs of tomorrow."

When the virus took its brutal toll on the world’s economy, we launched the fastest economic recovery our country has ever seen. $6 trillion in economic relief, saved or supported over 50 million jobs, and slashed the unemployment rate in half. These are numbers that our country should take pride in, and they have never failed to deeply move me. I knew that they would not just come out to show their support and love for our country. This is a proud, strong American. They came out to show me their pride, to show me their love for America. It is the same profound love of our God-given country that beats in the hearts of our people. Whenever I traveled all along the motorcade route, there were thousands and thousands of people. They came out with their families so that they could stand as we passed and proudly wave our great American flag. It never failed to deeply move me. I knew that they did not just come out to show their support of me. They came out to show me their love for America. I hope, sir, that is a republic of proud citizens who are united by our common conviction, that America is the greatest nation in all of history.

"As I think back on the past four years, one image rises in my mind above all others. Whenever I traveled all along the motorcade route, there were thousands and thousands of people. They came out with their families so that they could stand as we passed and proudly wave our great American flag. It never failed to deeply move me. I knew that they did not just come out to show their support of me. They came out to show me their love for America."

"All that we have achieved together. It’s in our laws would be upheld, our heroes honored, our history preserved, and law-abiding Americans should take tremendous satisfaction in all that we have achieved together. It’s incredible."

"Our trade relationship was rapidly changing. Billions and billions of dollars were pouring into the US but the virus forced us to go in a different direction. Since China world suffered, but America outperformed other countries economically because of our incredible economy and the economy that we built. Our economy was the best, and it wouldn’t have worked out this way. We wouldn’t have some of the best numbers we’ve ever had. We also unlocked our energy resources and became the world’s largest producer of oil and natural gas by far. Powered by these policies, we built the greatest economy in the history of the world. We reigned America’s job creation and achieved record-low unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, women, almost everyone. Income soared, wages boomed. The American dream was restored and millions were lifted from poverty in just a few short years. It was a mitred.

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‘Now, as I prepare to hand power over to a new administration at noon on Wednesday, I want you to know that the movement we started is only just beginning. There’s never been anything like it. The belief that a nation must serve its citizens will not dwindle, but instead, only grows stronger by the day. As long as the American people hold in their hearts, deep and devoted love of country, then there is nothing that this nation can not achieve. Our communities will flourish. Our people will be prosperous. Our traditions will be cherished. Our faith will be strong and our future will be brighter than ever before. I go from this majestic place with a loyal and joyful heart, an optimistic spirit, and a supreme confidence that for our country and for our children, the best is yet to come. Thank you and farewell. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.’

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF MELISSA KIEDROWICZ ELLISON
HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a trusted advisor, Melissa Kiedrowicz Ellison, who has been an invaluable member of my team for more than a decade. Melissa first joined my staff as an intern in the 111th Congress and has served the people of the district I represent as a Legislative Correspondent, Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Melissa has always been a steady hand, helping me carry out my duties as a member of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus during the 115th Congress.

Melissa has been by my side through countless hours of markups and hearings on difficult issues before the Committee on Ways and Means. Her grace under pressure, expertise, and leadership have been extraordinary assets in guiding my legislative efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and help working families recover from the greatest challenge we have faced in generations. Melissa always strived to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the constituents we serve, and she ensured Team Sánchez worked with common purpose in the halls of Congress and in the 38th District to do so. Thanks to Melissa’s tenacity, I was proud to secure passage of 13 bills through the U.S. House of Representatives on her watch.

Melissa is known for her witty sense of humor, unfailing loyalty, and an appreciation for all things Disney. I am so proud that Melissa will be bringing that magic to the Ways and Means Committee as the new Director of Outreach and Member Services. Her rich knowledge of the Committee will be a boon to Chairman NEAL and all of our members as we redouble our efforts to defeat the COVID–19 pandemic and rebuild an economy that benefits all working families. Though Melissa is leaving my office, I am so glad she is remaining in the Ways and Means Committee family and she will forever be a valued family member of Team Sánchez. I cannot wait to see all her future accomplishments as her career unfolds.
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S75–S94

Measures Reported:

S. 12, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

Measures Passed:

DoD Waiver: By 69 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 4), Senate passed H.R. 335, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

(A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the bill, having achieved 60 affirmatives votes, pass.)

Inaugural Ceremony Proceedings—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Inaugural Ceremony Proceedings be printed in the Record.

Austin Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, January 22, 2021, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense; that there be 10 minutes for debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nomination.

Messages from the House:

Executive Communications: Page S91
Executive Reports of Committees: Page S91
Additional Statements: Pages S90–91
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S91

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—4)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 6:14 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S94.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.12, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; and

The nomination of Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Transportation, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Young, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 72 public bills, H.R. 373–444; 1 private bill, H.R. 445; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 17; H. Con. Res. 7; and H. Res. 54–60, were introduced.

Pages H220–24

Additional Cosponsors: Page H227

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the over 400,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID–19 virus.

Order of Business—Consideration of H.R. 335: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H.R. 335 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee; that all points of order against consideration of the bill be waived; that the bill be considered as read; that all points of order against provisions in the bill be waived; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

Pages H209

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:12 p.m.

Providing for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces: The House passed H.R. 335, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, by a yea-and-nay vote of 326 yeas to 78 nays, Roll No. 18.

Pages H209–19

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H209.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H219.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of Janet Louise Yellen, of California, to be Secretary of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD–106.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Friday, January 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense, and vote on confirmation thereon at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1:30 p.m., Monday, January 25

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1:30 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

Gallagher, Mike, Wisc., E53
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Griffith, H. Morgan, Va., E54
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Meijer, Peter, Mich., E58
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E51, E59

Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho, Northern Mariana Islands, E56
Sánchez, Linda T., Calif., E62
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Wittman, Robert J., Va., E56

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