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 humble 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...
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, and appointed as Secretary of Defense, as described in subsection (a), and to no other person.

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.

Tacking 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 facing 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 Jim 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. Are we 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 misgivings 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.
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 have a right to regular order and thoughtful scrutiny of nominees and any potential waivers."

Majority Leader Hoyer 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 didn’t.

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 not follow regular order.

Congress should not have to entertain these waivers. Presidents need to follow the law as written. They need to do what is necessary 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 twice times more likely to be court-martialed or punished.

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 a month to do the process right. They stopped us from doing the process right. I want the record to reflect that.

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, but 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.

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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.

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 experience 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 perfectly 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 think 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, but 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.
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 I have also seen.

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 it is a misunderstanding that committees 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 INDOPACOM experience. The nominee has 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 high enlisted 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 and women and men in uniform and do what is right for the rest of the country.
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. Speaker, in 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 Lloyd 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 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 who is 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 long enough 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 tough but 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 commander of the United States Forces Korea.

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 majority and those of the minority symbol and a bridge between those of us who want to turn a page of history and those of us who want to turn the page on any weaknesses, we need strong leadership. General Lloyd Austin will provide us with that.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman who is celebrated for logistical feats to win a war. Rare is a general who is celebrated for logistical feats to end a war.

Mr. Speaker, I rise 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 Secretary-designate Austin. I think this law is a very relevant law. It is a very important law. It anticipated, when the Congress passed it, that there would be reasons for waiver, or it would not have included it. It would have made a preclusion. It did not do that.

It said under circumstances that the Congress considers, it may well be in order to have a waiver. This, I think, is one of those times.

Very frankly, one of the reasons I voted “no” on Mr. Mattis is because Mr. Trump did not know Mr. Mattis, his outstanding military service.

General Mattis really didn’t know Mr. Trump; and that relationship did not go well, unfortunately. In my view, General Mattis was a great tower of strength and independence in leading the Department of Defense. So I con-
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 into my office that the Members of the Continental Congress are seated notwithstanding theirinclination 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 pre-condition 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 country needs 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 almost as good as 7 years. Under the law, there is a 7-year cooling off period. Five years, in my mind, is almost as good as 7 years. When he ran in 2012, he was out of the military for almost 5 years.

So we need to act quickly and we need to make a determination as to whether this is appropriate. I think it will be good for the Armed Forces of the United States of America. I think it will be good for the American people throughout 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 Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio.

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.

Secretary Austin is visceral in the conviction that 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 closest to the American citizens 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 responsibilities in roles and capacities that 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 has a life he has been a 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 and willing the roles they are assigned.

Mr. Speaker, the time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio.

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.

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 and willing the roles they are assigned.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman for yielding.
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 concern about what I was 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 will still 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 were right, what will be the requirements for that individual because we are facing the 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 Biden his appointment as 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.

Beginning 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 was there to brief us with 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 Biden his appointment 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.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee).

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 let them 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 that civilian control of the military has been a bedrock principle of our democracy since the founding of this Republic. It is a bedrock principle of our democracy since the founding of our Republic. Yet, at the same time, in the backdrop of the last 4 years, I think he is needed for two reasons. One, the military has faced an enormous amount of instability. They were called “suckers” and “losers.” Generals were criticized. So you need someone who is a military person’s military person, someone they know is part of the team.

Then you need someone who can build that morale. Yes, we had morale in the previous administration of President Barack Obama, having respected them. Now, I believe we must give President Biden the opportunity for his Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who will support this concept, knowing that we believe that civilian control of the military is a bedrock.

I do think that we cannot call this a precedent. One and two is not a precedent. I do think we can look at maybe some other definitions of what it means.

But a man who is able to end a war of 150,000 soldiers coming home is a man who can lead the United States military in a spirit of lifting the morale, providing stability, and calling them the brave men and women that they are.

Let’s support the waiver. Vote “yes” on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 335, which provides 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 so that President Biden can nominate retired four-star Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III to serve as the next Secretary of Defense.

Gen. Austin retired from active duty in 2016, which under current law (10 U.S.C. § 113(a)), makes him ineligible for appointment as Secretary of Defense.

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 former Gen. Mattis to serve 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 a man who is able to end a war of 150,000 soldiers coming home is a man who can lead the United States military in a spirit of lifting the morale, providing stability, and calling them the brave men and women that they are.

Let’s support the waiver. Vote “yes” on this resolution.
The next Secretary of Defense will need to ensure the well-being and resilience of our service members 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 that pay it.

Equally disturbing is that troubling evidence continues to emerge that the military itself has become a haven for white supremacist causes. As a senior member of Congress and a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I know the importance of domestic security and the defense of our nation. Retired General Austin, I believe, can bring that balance and that is why he deserves a congressional waiver to become President-elect Biden’s secretary of Defense. I am going to support President-elect Joe Biden’s nomination of Maj. Gen. Lloyd Austin as the 28th U.S. secretary of Defense.

First, let me acknowledge that I did not support giving a waiver to General James Mattis because of his lack of experience in the Defense Department. I voted against his nomination by President Donald J. Trump in 2017. My opposition was not because I did not have respect for General Mattis who might have been a real waiver, but rather because of the view that I had of the United States military at that time. President-elect Biden, I was not the only member of Congress who had concerns over the administration of a military that was strong in morale and a stable organization. After all, the military under his command was able to capture our greatest enemy—Osama bin Laden. His capture was an enormous boost to the Pentagon and to the overall military rank and file. Military personnel and families were treated with dignity and their needs were responded to expeditiously. Certainly, improvement could have been made, but generally the United States military was in very good shape. On the other hand, in 2020, my concern is that throughout the last four years the military has been under attack by negative comments on generals and on the policies and on the vision for action. There is a great need to bring in a person who can first of all boost the morale of our men and women in uniform who sacrifice their lives on behalf of the people of this nation, and their families every day. Secondarily, now we need stability and a firm hand that shows the balance between the needs of the military as well as the civilian leader. I believe after listening to Mr. Austin in our conversation, it is clear that his view of the role of the secretary of Defense is solidly based. He recognizes that the Commander in Chief is his boss and will be the guiding force on the policies and on the vision for action. This is a time for impeccable leadership to bring about a united and strong stability to our men and women in uniform. And for that reason, I truly believe this is a distinct and different time, and that General Austin who has been a leader in the military for the last period of time knows the role of a civilian leader and will act accordingly. I believe more that this is the right decision at the right time.

Lloyd Austin, is an accomplished and respected trailblazer in the United States Army. He is a trusted and crisis-tested leader who has broken barriers in the historic senior ranks of the military. With more than 40 years of service, Retired General Lloyd Austin is a deeply experienced and highly decorated commander who has served with distinction in several of the Pentagon’s most crucial roles. He is a son of the South born in Mobile, Ala., and grew up in Thomasville, Ga. He graduated from West Point United States Military Academy and later earned degrees from Auburn University, Webster University, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

Mr. Lloyd Austin was promoted to Lieutenant General in 2006 and assumed command of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. And in 2009 he handed over his command to become the Director of the Joint Staff. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2016 as 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, Defense Distinguished Medals, Army Distinguished Service Medals, a Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medals, and a Legion of Merit medal.

As confirmed, Lloyd Austin is set to become the first African American secretary of Defense which culminates a barrier-breaking career as the first African American general officer to command an Army Division in combat, to lead a Corps in combat, to command an entire theater of war, and to serve as Commander of U.S. Central Command.

Secretary-designate Lloyd Austin has proven and demonstrated extraordinary leadership across a lifetime of distinguished service and is well prepared to lead our nation’s military and our great nation.

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 appointment will further heal and unify the nation.

Secretary-designate Lloyd Austin has previously been confirmed by the Senate because of his impeccable character 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 the Congress and deserved confirmation 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 person 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 a public servant.

As our Commander in Chief, I support President Biden in his selection of Lloyd Austin to protect our national security, strengthen our global alliances, and 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, and 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 send 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, 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 this committee 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 wanted a waiver with General Mattis, and I believe it is only right that I supported one waiver for General Austin.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the President has his national security team in place as soon as possible. I look forward to working with General Austin if he is confirmed, and I urge a favorable vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of 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-level positions. He understands that the ship of State is a partnership, and he intends to make sure that the candidate is competent to serve in this position.

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 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 Secretory-designate Austin is highly 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. He has a long history of service, 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.

Mr. Speaker, today, 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.

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Mr. Speaker, I yield back 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 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 point.

When I first heard that Secretary Austin was going to be the selection, I will confess that 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 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 resolve this issue moving forward.

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 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 he doesn’t have a Secretary of Defense is a huge problem for a variety of reasons.

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 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 visited 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 threat that we all addressed 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 can figure out their ratios, 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 4 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 serve.

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

This House, with 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.ocre. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 335, a bill to provide Ret. General Lloyd Austin III to serve as Secretary of Defense. Today, we are debating President Biden's nomination of the uniquely qualified General Lloyd J. Austin III (U.S. Army, Ret.) to serve as Secretary of Defense.

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 global crises including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the recent sync attack on our government systems by Russia, and rising tensions with Iran and throughout the Middle East. General Austin brings a distinctiveness to the position of an unwaiving 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 Iraqi counterparts, further noting 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 of our time.

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 appointed, General Austin was confirmed by President Trump and was unable to reassure Americans 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 non-civilian 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 currently conduct hearings on the waiver. 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 of persons as United States Secretary of Defense.

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. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE January 21, 2021

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.
January 21, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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are anything but routine, and I am convinced that current circumstances warrant this waiver.

On January 6, 2021, violent insurrectionists stormed and attacked the U.S. Capitol attempting to overturn the will of the voters and impede the peaceful transfer of power to a new, democratically-elected administration. The concurrent state of heightened security risks, the lack of cooperation by former President Trump for a successful transition, the emboldening of white supremacists and serious threat of domestic terrorism, and numerous other unprecedented challenges make it imperative that President Biden’s national security team be in place as expeditiously as possible. This certainly includes a Secretary of Defense, a role that is also critical to vaccine distribution and other elements of our response to the coronavirus pandemic.

President Biden has been elected by the people to serve as our Commander in Chief, and I respect his decision to nominate General Austin, a well-respected, experienced, and barrier-breaking nominee, to meet the many challenges our nation faces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All debate on the question of the engrossment and third reading of the bill, the bill ordered engrossed and third reading of the bill. Pursuant to the order of the House of Representatives, the bill was read the third time. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill. Pursuant to the order of the House of Representatives, the bill was read the third time. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yes 326, nays 78, not voting 27, as follows:

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No. 18.
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6. A letter from the President, transmitting a notification that the National Emergency concerning the southern border of the United States, originally declared on February 15, 2019, by Proclamation 9844, is to continue in effect beyond February 15, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); and H. Res. 1257 (H. Doc. No. 117–11); to the Committee on Armed Services, and ordered to be printed.

EC-7. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Homeland Security and Americas’ Security Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s consolidated budget justification display of the combating terrorism program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 229a; Added by Public Law 106-68, div. A, title IX, Sec. 932(b)(1), Oct. 5, 1999: (133 Stat. 727); to the Committee on Armed Services, and ordered to be printed.


EC-9. A letter from the President, transmitting additional steps to address the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities as declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(b); Public Law 98-477, Sec. 1627 and 1629; 93 Stat. 1641(b); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(b); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 117–11); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred to the following:

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

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. HICKS of Georgia, Mr. BUI, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROUSZER, Mr. MOORE, Mr. BASS, Mr. GARTZ, and Mr. ROUZIER):
H.R. 374. A bill to prohibit the availability of United States contributions to the World Health Organization until Congress receives a full report on China and the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BOEBERT:
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. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. BUI, Mr. LEONARD of Virginia, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. HERRELL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. PFEIFFER, Mr. CLINE, Mr. WERBER of Texas, Mr. RUZBAK, and Mr. ROUZIER):
H.R. 376. A bill to require the advice and consent to ratification of the Paris Agreement by the United States before any 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. ABBOTT of Texas (for himself, Mr. BARNIN, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. BANKS):
H.R. 377. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to impose penalties for assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees, 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 ROCHERST, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KHAHNA, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GHJALVA, Ms. ROY-BALLAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RAMSKIN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SABHLAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. KILDER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. GARCIA 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. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BLUNT ROCHERST, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KHAHNA, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GHJALVA, Ms. ROY-BALLAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RAMSKIN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SABHLAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. KILDER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):
H.R. 381. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include certain safety projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. BONAMICI):
H.R. 386. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for the operation of a bikeshare project in Portland, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. BONAMICI):
H.R. 387. A bill to prevent the sale of marijuana for commercial use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. KHAELI):
H.R. 388. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by requiring pre-approval for all federal fiscal year 2021 obligations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. SHERES, Mr. NICHVE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. NOEM):
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. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. KUNTZ, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GORE of Tennessee, Mr. HARSHBAUGH, and Mr. DESJARDINS)
H.R. 390. A bill to redesignate the Federal building located at 167 North Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee as the “O’Dell Horton Federal Building”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONOLLY (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BEKA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BASS, Mr. BEATTY, Mr. BENTEN, Ms. BEYER, Mr. BROWNLEY, Mr. CLEAVON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASHE, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CIOLLINK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COLE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CORSERA, Ms. DWELCH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FRAZIER, Mr. FRANKL of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HOBAN, Mr. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KHAHNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANCEVIN,
Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. McGUVEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SEAN BATCHELOR of New York, Ms. SULLIVAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHRES, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TTUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TRAHRAN, Mr. TUCKER, Ms. WATSON, MR. WILEY, 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. SARABANES, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TROY, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. BREYER, 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 prevailing rate employees by 3.2 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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

H.R. 393. A bill to provide for the more accurate reporting of retiree health care costs for certain firefighters employed by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Ms. HAYES, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. COHN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SWALWELL, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. MICHAEL F. BLYTHE of Pennsylvania):

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 final nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat and to provide that nothing in the Paris Agreement shall be construed as permitting or requiring the United States to renounce or fail to demonstrate the existence of a violation of United States law or an offense against the law of nations in United States courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. GABBARINO (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. KATKO):

H.R. 397. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, 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, by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BARNIN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. HOGG, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina): 

H.R. 398. A bill to strengthen 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. DRAN, Mr. DEFIANCE, Mr. DIXON, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KUSTER, 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, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SCALANCER, Ms. SCHIAF fetsky, Mr. SHRES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILD, and Ms. WILSON of Florida): 

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 provide for the inclusion of certain workers in the exemption from numerical limits on H-2B workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. KEATING (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

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

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. HAYES, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SARBANS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. SCHARLEFSKE, 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 to facilitate the relocation of SMUFC and to allow the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to provide assistance to the region to achieve greater security and conservation goals; 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 ammunition 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, Ms. WAGNER, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 407. A bill to require a notification relating to the nationally determined contribution of the United States prior to any submission with respect to such contribution of the United States in the context of the article 4 of the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. McCAUL (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-protected 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 Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of new 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 diversity visa program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 414. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish a uniform 5-year post-employment ban on all lobbying by former Members of Congress, to establish a political activity; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LOWELL of New Hampshire, Mr. MAST, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CASE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER): 

H.R. 404. A bill to improve the management of ivory smuggling; to the Committee on Natural Resources.
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. 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- tirement benefits or certain other Federal benefits or for pension rights under House Admin- istration, 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 provi- sions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 418. A bill to sunset new Federal regu- latory rules after 3 years, and for other pur- poses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. BOREBET, Mr. RUDD, Mr. GROTHAM, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mrs. MCCAIN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama).

H.R. 419. A bill to prohibit United States assessed and voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. CREN- SHAW, Mr. PFLEGER, Mr. ABBINGTON, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. BOREBET, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WOAMAC, Mr. RUDD, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MOONKEY, Mr. BOS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. MCCAIN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. ROY).

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. SABLAN (for himself, Mr. McGOVERN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MAL- NOLO of Hawaii, New York, Mr. CARMALVA, Mr. PINCERTE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SCHRADE, Ms. MOORE of Wis- consin, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. COURTNEY).

H.R. 421. A bill to amend the Food and Nu- trition Act of 2008 to treat the Commune- nalist Veterans Affairs in the same manner as Guam is treated; to the Committee on Agriculture.

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 estab- lish criteria for donations to Inau- gural Committees, and to require certain report- ing by Inaugural Committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Admin- istration, 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 provi- sions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. MORELLI, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NORTON, Mr. DESALMIER, Mr. MERKEL, Ms. SCHA- KOWSKY, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 423. 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 Speak- er, in each case for consideration of such provi- sions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. MORELLI, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NORTON, Mr. DESALMIER, Mr. MERKEL, Ms. SCHA- KOWSKY, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 424. A bill to amend the Energy Inde- pendence and Security Act of 2007 to reau- thorize the Energy and Conservation Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. LESKO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HEIN, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GAZTEZ, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 425. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining eligibility under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in ath- letics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person’s reproductive anatomy or genetics; for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 427. A bill to transfer the administra- tion of the H-2A program from the Secretary of Labor to the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 428. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to prohibit the payment of bonuses to highly compensated individuals employed by the debtor and insiders of the debtor to perform services during the bank- ruptcy case, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 429. A bill to limit the authority of States to tax or tax-credit as a compensation for employment duties performed in other States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 430. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from denying a veteran benefits administered by the Secretary by rea- son of the veteran being in a State- approved marijuana program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Af- fairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsyl- vania):

H.R. 431. A bill to amend the Internal Re- venue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 432. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the deadline for the cov- erage of marriage and family therapist serv- ices and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speak- er, in each case for consideration of such provi- sions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 433. A bill to establish a grant pro- gram for family community organizations that provide support for individuals strugg- ling with substance use disorder and their families; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 434. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a task force to advise the Secretary to advance access to Mental Health and Substance Use on a national strategy for preventing mental health and substance use crises during a public health emergency; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SMITH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MERKEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LAIB, Ms. WILD, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. LE of California, Ms. MENG, and Mr. NAE- LER):

H.R. 435. A bill to exclude from tax certain payments of Federal pandemic unemploy- ment compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 436. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interests in land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Re- sources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 437. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain lands to Alaska Native villages deter- mining eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CASE, and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 438. A bill to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Na- tive Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Wal- ter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CASE, and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 439. A bill to extend the deadline for a demonstration program to adapt the successful practices of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal eco- nomic development assistance to Native communities in similarly situated remote areas in the United States, and for other pur- poses; to the Committee on Natural Re- sources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 440. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alex- ander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recog- nized as an eligible Native village under that
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 Native 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. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEER, Mr. BERTA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT, MR. ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRISCOE, Mr. BROWN of Alabama, Ms. BURTON, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CASSIDY of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEA, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGHTTE, Mr. DELAUBRO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. DEMAIO, Mr. DERUTA, Mrs. DUNCAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESTROH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLIKO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GOSWAMI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. JAPAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KATTING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRSHENMORRIS, Mr. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SHAUN MCMURDO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCELHANEY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NAPOLITANO of California, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NURROSS, Ms. NORTH, Mr. NORTON, Mr. O’BALLERAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTÉZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINOHE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIREY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAUKOWSKY, Ms. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHREIER, Ms. SCHIRI, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHERS, Mr. SLOJTN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. STEICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Massachusetts, Titus, Ms. TLADS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TOWERS of California, Mr. TORES of New York, Ms. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VELA, Mr. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. WATERSHAM, Mr. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. WILD, Ms. WILIAMSON of Texas, Ms. YARMUTH, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CLEVER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PASCARELLI, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CORRERA, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. BUSH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SHERBHIL, 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. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BANKS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. CARL, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. ESTER, Mr. RUSHFORD, Mr. HERRELL, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WOACK, and Mr. JACKSON):

H. Res. 58. A resolution memorializing the President by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22d day of January each year; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. COMER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BARR, Mr. RUSHFORD, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BANKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MOORE of South Carolina) to the Committee on Oversight and Reform:

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 until it is renegotiated 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. BARR, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. BANKS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BARN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HARSHBARGER, Mr. JORDAN, Ms. ROSE of Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARR, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HARSHBARGER, Mr. THOMSON, Mr. KELLY of Missouri, Mr. ROY of Ohio, Mr. RUSHFORD, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BANKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MOORE of South Carolina) to the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

H. Res. 35. 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. SWALWELL):
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
January 21, 2021

H224

WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WENSTРUP, 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, Mrs. VAIRON COLEMAN introduced a bill (H.R. 445) for the relief of Yazmin 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 Mrs. BOEBERT:
H. R. 375. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (The President’s Property Clause) of the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H. R. 392. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, 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 1, 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 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. FOXX:
H. R. 395. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3, and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. GARBANINO:
H. R. 396. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. Art. I section 8 clause 18
By Mr. GIMENEZ:
H. R. 397. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:
H. R. 398. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4
By Mr. GRIJALVA:
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 1, 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 1, 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 1, 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 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.
By Mr. LIEU:
H. R. 404. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. LIEU:
H. R. 405. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. LIEU:
H. R. 406. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. McCaul:
H.R. 407.

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. McEachin:
H.R. 408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8.

By Mr. Neal:
H.R. 409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. Norton:
H.R. 410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. Posey:
H.R. 411.

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. 412.

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. 413.

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. 414.

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. 415.

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. 416.

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. 417.

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 United States Constitution;

By Ms. Scanlon:
H.R. 421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. Scott of Virginia:
H.R. 422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. Sires:
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. Stanton:
H.R. 424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. Steube:
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—To make 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. Steube:
H.R. 427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

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. Stutzman:
H.R. 428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

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.

H.R. 429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows: 

Offered By Mr. Smith

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Armed Services in H.R. 385 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.
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 recognized the majority leader.

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.

Even as the festivities were in full swing, our new President and this new Senate commenced the work of rebuilding our country and healing its wounds. With the stroke of a pen, President Biden started the process of rejoining the United States to the Paris accords. He extended the pause on student loan payments, put an end to the Muslim travel ban, reinstalled safeguards for our Nation’s Dreamers, and put a halt on the ineffective border wall.

Crucially, President Biden signed a number of orders to refocus the Federal Government’s efforts on fighting the coronavirus pandemic. The United States has rejoined the World Health Organization. A mask mandate has been issued for all Federal properties. And President Biden has named a new coronavirus response coordinator to manage vaccine distribution, which is so desperately needed and was such a failure under the Trump administration.

Our country has suffered deeply from the chaotic, lackluster, and incompetent Federal response to COVID–19. As we cross the grim milestone of 400,000—400,000—American fatalities from COVID, the Biden administration is wasting no time in marshaling the resources of the Federal Government into action and today released a national strategy to defeat the pandemic.

What a concept—a President who actually takes the defining crisis of our time seriously. What a change—and how great is the need.

Here in the Senate, the first order of business is to fulfill our constitutional duty to advise and consent on the President’s appointments to his Cabinet. Last night, the Senate confirmed the President’s selection for the Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines. We appreciate the bipartisan cooperation to get her confirmation done yesterday, and we should continue in that spirit today.

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 next, 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 a Treasury Secretary, 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:

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 House of Representatives: the Republican whip, the Honorable Stephen Scalise; and majority whip, the Honorable James E. Clyburn, 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; Majority Leader, the Honorable Chuck Schumer; President pro tempore of the Senate, the Honorable Mitch McConnell, and Mrs. McConnell; former Majority Leader, the Honorable Harry Reid, and Mrs. Christine; President pro tempore of the Senate, the Honorable Chuck Grassley, and Ms. Jennifer Heins assembled 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 First Lady of the United States, the Honorable Michelle Obama, and Mrs. Michelle Obama assembled on the President’s platform.

The 46th President of the United States, the Honorable Joe Biden, and Dr. Jill Biden assembled on the President’s platform.

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

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

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: staff representative Al exandra Gourdikian Dicecco, 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 Katie Knudsen, accompanying Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, and Mr. Paul Pelosi; staff representative Lindsey Kerr, accompanying the Honorable Amy Klobuchar and Mr. John Bessler; staff representative Stefanie Hagar Muchow, accompanying Senate majority leader, the Honorable Mitch McConnell, and Mr. Richard W. Shelby; 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 Ells; House Sergeant at Arms, Tim Bradlgett; 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. KLOBUCAR. Vice President Pence, Mr. President-elect, Madam Vice President-elect, Members of Congress and the judicial branch, former 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—chosen by the 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 the Union.

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, when we stand together, and do what America always does: It goes forward as a nation, under God, indivisible 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 he would see it through on it during the Civil War. To those critics, he replied, “If the people see the Capitol, it is true democracy. If they don’t think it’s government, the crowd can’t go on.” And it did, and it will.

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 of this democracy: To live up to the promise and set an example for others if we are always working to be better than we have been, and we are less than we hope to be.

The Constitution established that determined democracy with its first three words, declaring the people as the source of the government. The Antifederalists argued against it. The Federalists argued for it. And the people, they said, “We the People.”

The freedoms we have today and the Nation we have today is not here just because it happened, and they aren’t complete. A government of democracy is not just the successes and failures of our history, striving to be better than it had been. We are more than we have been, and we are less than we hope to be. The assault on our Capitol at this very place just 2 weeks ago reminds us that a government designed to balance and check itself is both fragile and resilient.

During the last year of the pandemic challenged our open and free society. The freedoms we enjoy today. For instance, the right to meet in person in our democratic system, to speak freely, to vote, to protest. These rights that challenge head on have been and are our healthcare workers, scientists, first responders, essential frontline workers, and so many others who have to operate in so many ways.

Today, we come to this moment; people all over the world, as we are here, watching
and will watch what we do here. Our government comes together. The Congress and the courts join the transition of Executive responsibility. 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 vision of how to build upon all that, our great 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 merciful 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, but united by a common purpose and a common patriotism—magnificent and much vaster than when the Archdiocese of Washington 222 years ago.

Archbishop Carroll wrote his prayer for the inauguration of George Washington 232 years ago: 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.

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

Today, we confess our past failures to live according to the equal dignities, equal inclusion, and freedom for all; yet we resolutely commit still more now to renewing the vision, 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 power to cherish and care 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 common 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 before 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. (James 1:5)

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

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

To the glory of Your name forever. Amen.

(Appause.)

(Peformance of the National Anthem by Lady Gaga, accompanied by the U.S. Marine Band.)

(Fire Captain Andrea M. Hall, of the South Fulton Georgia Fire and Rescue Department, president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 3920 recited the Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Appause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. What you are all about to be part of, America, is a historic moment of firsts.

To administer the oath to our first African-American, and our first woman Vice President, Kamala Harris, it is my great privilege to welcome to the inaugural stage the first Latina to ever serve as Vice President of the United States of America: Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The Associate Justice of the Supreme Court administered to the Vice President-elect the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which she repeated as follows:

I, KAMALA DEVI HARRIS, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of my office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

(Appause.)

(Jennifer Lopez performed “This Land Is Your Land” and “America the Beautiful” accompanied by the U.S. Marine Band.)

(Appause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Well, that was great.

The Sun is shining and, Mr. President-elect, this is the first inauguration in the history of America where J-Lo was the warmup act for Chief Justice Roberts.

With that, it is now my distinct honor to introduce the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, John Roberts, to administer the Presidential oath to the next President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

(Appause.)

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR., administered to the President-elect the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which he repeated, as follows:

I, JOSEPH ROBINETTE BIDEN, JR., do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE. Congratulations, Mr. President.

(Appause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. My fellow Americans—a moment we have all been waiting for—it is now my great privilege and high honor to be the first person to officially introduce the 46th President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

(Appause.)

The PRESIDENT, Chief Justice Roberts, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Lead-out Singer J-Lo, Vice President-elect, Speaker 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 triumph 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 seen that democracy is precious, democracy is fragile, and at this hour, our friends, democracy has prevailed.

(Appause.)

Now, on this 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 American wrestling, how can we set our sights on a nation we know we can and we must be. I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here today. I thank those at the bottom of my heart.

(Appause.)

I know the resilience of our Constitution and the strength—the strength of our Nation—as does President Carter, who I spoke with last night, who cannot be with us today, but whom we salute for his lifetime in service.

I have just taken the sacred oath each of those patriots have taken, the oath first sworn by George Washington. But the American story depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us—on we, the people, who seek a more perfect union. This is a great nation. We are good people. Over the centuries, through storm and strife, in peace and at war, we have come so far, but we still have far to go.

We will press forward with speed and urgency.

For we have witnessed the rise of political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront and we will defeat.

(Appause.)

To overcome these challenges, to restore the soul and secure the future of America requires so much more than words; it requires the most elusive of all things in a democracy integrity. It requires, for example, to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build, to do much to create a more perfect union.

In another January on New Year’s Day in 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. When he put pen to paper, the President said:

If my name ever goes down in history, it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it.

My whole soul is in it today, on this January day. My whole soul is in this: bringing America together, uniting our people, uniting our Nation. I ask every American to join me in this cause.

(Appause.)

Uniting to fight the foes we face—anger, resentment and hatred, the wrenching violence of war, of poverty and despair. We can redeem the soul of America and we do. We can reunite and repair our country together.

I know the forces that divide us are deep and abiding. But as President-elect Biden said today, “We will rise.”

In 2021, 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.

We know, speaking of unity, it can sound to some like a foolish fantasy these days. I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real, but I also know they are not inevitable. Our history has taught us that we cannot turn our backs on the struggle between the American ideal, that we are all created equal, and the harsh ugly reality...
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 Wars I and II, and through struggle, sacrifice, and setbacks, our better angels have always prevailed. In each of these moments, enough of us—enough of us—have come together. It is only by 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 and envy; 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 we 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 movement doesn’t have to be a cause for total war, and we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured.

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 amidst the Civil War, in a country where our nation’s very existence was in question and 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 100 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.

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.

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.

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.

Look, folks, all my colleagues I serve with, 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.

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 belonging, meaning and goodness—may this be the story that guides us, the story that inspires us, and the story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the call of history. We did. We defended America and honor, truth and justice, did not die on our watch but thrived, that America secured liberty at home and stood once again as a beacon to the world. That is what we owe our forebears, one another, and generations to follow.

So, with purpose and resolve, we turn to those tasks of time sustained by faith, driven by conviction, and devoted to one another and the country we love with all our hearts. May God bless America, and may God protect our troops.

Thank you, America.

(Debate Brooks performed “Amazing Grace.”)

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 history, American history, as it is to the American anthem. That is America—our Nation’s first ever National Youth Poet Laureate.

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

When day comes we ask ourselves,
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea we must wade
We’ve braved the belly of the beast
We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace
And the norms and notions of what just is
Isn’t always last-ice
And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it
Somehow we do it
Somehow we’ve weathered and witnessed
A nation that isn’t broken but simply unfinished
We the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny Black girl
descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
can dream of becoming president
only to find herself reciting for one
And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
but that doesn’t mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect
We are striving to forge a union with purpose
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us
but what stands before us
We close the divide because we know, to put our future first
we must first put our differences aside
We lay down our arms
so we can reach out our arms to one another
We seek harm to none and harmony for all
But in all the bridges we’ve made
our future first,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
and no one shall make them afraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,
we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one
We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west,
we will rise from the windswept northeast
where our forefathers first realized revolution
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the middle states,
we will rise from the sunbaked south
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
every known nook of our nation and our every corner of the globe,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
battered and beautiful.
When day comes we step out of the shade, afame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we’re brave enough to see it
if only we’re brave enough to be it.
(Applause.)
Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Amanda Gorman.
Now, for our benediction, I am pleased to introduce the Reverend Dr. Silvester Beaman, pastor of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE, a friend of President Biden for 30 years.
Reverend BEAMAN. As a nation and people of faith gathered in this historical moment, let us unite in prayer.
God, we gather under the beauty of Your holiness and the holiness of Your beauty.
We petition You once more in this celebration.
Mr. President, for Divine favor upon our nation.
Mr. President, for the grace and favor that You give,
we will rise from the sunbaked south
we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. President.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerks will call the roll.
The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.
Mr. BOOKER. You are welcome.
Mr. SCHUMER. A new politeness from the Chair.
I suggest the absence of a quorum.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER
THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican 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 colleague from New York. His pride and emotion were palpable yesterday as this self-described “kid from Brooklyn (and son of an exterminator and a housewife)” became the first Jewish Member of Congress to lead either Chamber—a historic milestone.

People—Your people—shall no longer raise up weapons against one another, who will rather use our resources for the national good, and become a beacon of life and good will to the world, and within shall we 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 commonness.
Beyond the difference of color, creed, origin, political party, ideology, geography, and personal preferences, we will become greater stewards of our environment, preserving the land, reaping from it a sustainable 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, regardless of their choices—that this is our country.

Mr. Chairman, for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. My recognition is accorded.
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.
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Mr. Chairman, for the quorum call be rescinded.
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 colleagues 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 Republicans plus Vice President Harris signed a letter insisting this longstanding rule should not be broken.

So if the talk of unity and common ground is to have meaning and, certainly, 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 the Senate.

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 consecutive Republican Senates have delivered for the American people.

In 2014, our majority was elected to check and balance the last years of a lameduck Presidency.

In 2016, we were reelected again on those strong results, especially the historic job market for American workers and our commitment to the judiciary.

And now, even as voters chose President Biden for the White House, they simultaneously shrunk Democrats’ House majority and elected this evenly divided Senate.

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 government.

So our side is ready to share ideas and work with the Biden administration, applying common sense to find common ground for the common good.

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 reentered the failed Paris climate agreement, a terrible bargain that would set us up to self-inflict major economic pain on working American families with no assurance that 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 agreement have kept increasing theirs. Rejoining will just set us up to kill American jobs while our competitors continue to roar on by.

The President also unilaterally canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline. The day-one priority was to kill thousands of American jobs, including union jobs, by disappoiting our strong ally Canada, and reverse some of our progress toward energy security. This is a project that the liberal Canadian Government and Prime Minister Trudeau support—an investment in North American energy. Even the Obama State Department concluded it would not harm the climate. But because canceling the pipeline project just feels like the green thing to do, the new administration killed all these jobs. This was not the day one the American workers deserved.

The new administration has also sketched out a massive proposal for blanket amnesty that would gut enforcement of American laws while creating huge new incentives for people to rush here illegally at the same time. This kind of approach invites another humanitarian crisis on our border and privilege powerful interests ahead of American workers.

For all the talk about norms within government, last night brought a truly unprecedented move at the National Labor Relations Board. The President fired the Board’s independent general counsel almost a year before the end of his term. Even leftwing activists called the unprecedented move “aggressive.”

Now, it is still early. There is still plenty of time for President Biden to remember that he does not owe his election to the far left. The President can and should refocus his administration on creating good-paying American jobs, not sacrificing our people’s livelihoods to liberal symbolism. Senate Republicans will be ready, willing, and eager to help make that happen.

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. McCon nella. 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. Durbin. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the item still call be suspended.

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

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 President Biden and, of course, Vice President Harris to their new roles and look forward to their leadership that they will provide in these difficult times.

We can never forget that America is still in the midst of a deadly pandemic. Tragically, we lost over 400,000 Americans. In my State of Illinois, we have seen more than 1 million COVID cases, and 18,398 of my neighbors and friends in Illinois have died due to this deadly virus.

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 refreshing and long overdue sight to have the President and White House fully engaged in addressing this pandemic with a focus on science and racial equity.

On his first day yesterday, President Biden signed several important Executive actions, including instituting a mask mandate for all Federal facilities and buildings.

Secondly, he moved to rejoin the World Health Organization. This was one of the most confounding decisions by the Trump administration. In the midst of a global pandemic, President Trump opted to remove the United States from the World Health Organization, which was focusing on the spread of this pandemic and its impact on nations around the world.

Finally, 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 was elected. Today, he is outlining a strong plan to provide a national strategy to liberate us from this threat.

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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.

Threatening 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 to design and develop 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 skepticism 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 cheer that goal. He is addressing 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 and distribution 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 rear a family behind the 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 $9 trillion plan that President Biden outlined last week.

I was 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 $908 billion, which was then embraced by 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 the conversation that we envisioned 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 has caused will soon be 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 will. 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 naïve 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 $843 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.

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 are building builds on the model of the National Health Service Corp, which tracks young doctors to come and serve in underserved areas and to help underserved populations, and then helps pay off their medical student 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 any measure that is passed in the near future.

The President’s plan sets out additional relief measures that will float to those in need and is 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.

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 unbowed and 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 the whole people."

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 President's message. That means respecting 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 or the right. And he is steadfast in his commitment to unity is forgotten—by augurations. But all too often that talk about unity at Presidential inaugurations. 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 President's message. That means respecting those Americans who didn't vote for President Biden as well as those who did.

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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 political 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 true that 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 are running $9 billion, or 18 percent, above projections, and its unemployment insurance 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 projected 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. It is clear that these folks haven’t talked to business owners. Small businesses in America are struggling like never before, especially in liberal States, where repeated lockdowns have exacerbated their work to stay open. And President Biden believes now is the time to slap another mandate on their back and drive even more Americans chasing the dream of this country out of business? I am not sure how you could possibly be more detached from reality.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, a federally mandated $15 minimum wage would cost as many as 3.7 million Americans their jobs. Let me tell you, I know what it is like to be poor, to live in public housing, to not have enough money to afford healthcare for a family member. I watched my parents struggle for work. I don’t want any family to go through what I went through.

I ran for office because I wanted to help working families like the one I grew up in to have the chance to live the American dream. So when I hear folks like Ms. Yellen say that job loss from a minimum-wage mandate is “very minimal, if anything,” it really leaves me at a loss. Watching 3.7 million Americans lose their jobs will not be minimal.

Adding insult to injury, we have heard great praise for the implementation of a carbon emissions tax by the White House—something—somebody—somehow—someplace—somehow—someplace—somehow—this was part of the Green New Deal, which would be a disaster if passed. According to estimates from the Heritage Foundation, a carbon emissions tax would cost the country 1.4 million jobs and would in 2029 drive the minimum wage down to $9 trillion and reducing income for a family of four by $40,000, with disproportionate costs falling on low-income families. Again, how can this be seen as the logical step when so many in our Nation are simply trying to recover and rebuild from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic?

If the administration has its way, Americans should prepare for higher taxes, less income, less opportunity, and more government mandates.

Ms. Yellen seems to think the solution to America’s economic woes is more government, more taxes, more regulation, not more individual opportunity. 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 that, 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 unconvincing 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. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.
Sasse, Todd Young, Kamala D. Harris, Bill Nelson, Johnny Isakson, Edward J. Markey, Mike Lee, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Tim Kaine.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Over 60 Senators in the U.S. Senate—Democrats and the majority of Democrats—sent this letter to who was then leadership of the Senate, writing, in essence: Don't change the legislative filibuster.

A bunch of Democrats and a bunch of Republicans—I was going to read the names, but they know who they are—the majority on both sides in this body, from both parties, in 2017 said: Don't change it. This shouldn't be something the U.S. Senate changes.

Part of the reason this was going on was that, at the time, then-President Trump was pressing Senators, particularly Majority Leader McCONNELL, to 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 and 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's 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 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 today.

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, I think it's been a tumultuous 2 years. We have 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. When you 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: why, why can't we do this? They have strong, resilient institutions that ensure the regular elections of new leaders that invest in self-government and the people?

When these citizens ask these questions of authoritarian leaders like Putin or Xi Jinping, they are not going to be getting anymore because they won't have answers to these questions.

So what does this all have to do with Mr. Lloyd Austin? A lot. Mr. Austin has been nominated to lead one of the most important institutions—the Department of Defense. Many of us have worked hard over the last few years to rebuild our military's strength and readiness, but I think we can all agree that there has been too much turmoil at the top at the Pentagon. As its civilian leader, I am confident that Mr. Austin will bring steadiness, leadership, and respect to this indispensable American institution.

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 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 saw 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 concerns.

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
January 21, 2021

HONORING THE UNITED STATES CAPITAL 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 this week at the Capitol.

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 government. Something that sometimes is 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 this 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 things went well. And, 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 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 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 our 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, Rickenbacker Air National Guard.

During this pandemic, when more Americans than ever are facing severe food insecurity, I have had the chance to see firsthand the contributions 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 our communities 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. We can’t thank them enough for what they have done during this time of crisis.

As I have visited with the Guard this week, both with regard to the Ohio members and Guard from all over the country, including some conversations I had this morning, I have told them all what I have heard from the Capitol Police this week. I have heard that they really appreciated the backup at a time when shifts have been long, sleep has been rare, and the effects of the attack on the Capitol are still acutely felt.

It has been a tough 2 weeks on our Capitol police officers. It has been a tough 2 weeks since the attack on the Capitol.

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.

I want 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 selflessly 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 the country. On 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 streets of Harrisburg, PA, as ever 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; 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 this 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 fledging 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 years 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, I supported allowing a “one-time exception” to the statutory requirement for the confirmation of Gen. James Mattis. Until Congress
We have also seen a troubling increase in the politicization of our military. For example, hundreds of retired generals and admirals signed public letters of support for Presidential candidates in 2020, with both campaigns competing for the most military endorsements. That was coupled with a growing trend toward political expression among the ranks on social media and at least one instance where servicemen in uniform were featured at one of the national Presidential nominating conventions. It is imperative that military officers do not come to view their commands as audits for future political appointments or opportunities to curry favor with civilian political leaders.

As Dr. Lindsay Cohn, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College, stated during the recent Senate Armed Services Committee hearing examining civilian control of the Armed Forces, civilian control of our military is not necessarily an on-off switch. It is a web of institutions, norms, practices, and understandings which can be weakened or strengthened. Recently, we have begun to see the principle of civilian control of the military weakened and degraded.

In my view, Congress must not simply acquiesce to that growing trend. I did not believe it would be wise to allow the exception to swallow the rule when it comes to such a foundational principle of our Republic as civilian control of the military.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to once again oppose a waiver to allow a recently retired member of Armed Forces to serve as our Secretary of Defense. On the merits, I support the nomination of Lloyd Austin, and I believe that Mr. Austin is highly qualified for this role. However, the importance of civilian leadership at the Department of Defense is greater than any individual nominee.

The subordination of military authority to civil authority is a bedrock principle of our democracy. In 2017, when I voted against a waiver to allow James Mattis to serve as Secretary of Defense, I stressed that our Founders’ emphasis on civilian leadership distinguished the young United States from its individual merits.” And I intend to waive this law at this moment in time, so Congress can vote on the nomination of Lloyd Austin for Secretary of Defense, civilian control of the military weakened and degraded.

In my view, Congress must not simply acquiesce to that growing trend. I do not believe it would be wise to allow the exception to swallow the rule when it comes to such a foundational principle of our Republic as civilian control of the military.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to once again oppose a waiver to allow a recently retired member of Armed Forces to serve as our Secretary of Defense. On the merits, I support the nomination of Lloyd Austin, and I believe that Mr. Austin is highly qualified for this role. However, the importance of civilian leadership at the Department of Defense is greater than any individual nominee.

The subordination of military authority to civil authority is a bedrock principle of our democracy. In 2017, when I voted against a waiver to allow James Mattis to serve as Secretary of Defense, I stressed that our Founders’ emphasis on civilian leadership distinguished the young United States from the other nations of the time. I also noted that in enacting the exception for General Marshall in 1950, Congress expressly stated that: “the authority granted by this Act is not to be construed as approval by the Congress of continuing appointments of military men to the office of Secretary of Defense in the future. It is hereby expressly declared as the sense of the Congress that after General Marshall leaves the office of secretary of defense, no additional appointments of military men to that office shall be approved.” I still believe that the 7-year waiting period is a valuable practice—one of many—that preserves our Nation’s long tradition of placing civilian authority over military authority. In 2017, I said “should Congress vote to waive this law at this moment in time, I will review the nomination [. . .] on its individual merits.” And I intend to apply my words then to my actions now and will consider Mr. Austin’s nomination on its merits when it comes to the floor for a vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.
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 can fulfill their calling. Nestled 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 Dr. Michael Carter 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 nearly 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. That plan—like everything at 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 physical and drug-related difficulties. 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 30 years. During his time as a 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 MG Dean 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 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 exceptional service to our Nation, both as a military and civilian leader, and wish him well in his much-deserved retirement.
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 we have someone who 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 reviewing the CIA’s torture programs. 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 got 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 as 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.

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.

The standards listed here shall 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 ID before being issued a ballot. Voters who provide false information, including information of voter qualification, shall be penalized.
5. As a condition of being issued a ballot, the voter’s identity and signature must be recorded in a permanent record (Poll Book).
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 counterfeiting.
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. 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 with the vote totals. The margin of uncertainty must be less than one half the margin of victory or 0.1% of the vote total, whichever is less.
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 32nd 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 leader 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 that was available to them. He recognized 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 $100 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 had 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 community service.

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. ‘Hank’ Coe’s 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 for many years. To my community, friends, family, fellow lawmakers and the exceptional legislative staff, I say thank you.”
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 Madeline, daughter Carey Coe Johnson and husband Jeff and grandchildren Madeline, Jagger, and Jrakke, 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 to come.

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, today I am pleased to recognize Senator Coe, who has retired from the Wyoming State Senate after 21 years of dedicated service and over 40 years of public service to Wyoming.

A Cody, WY native, Senator Coe has shown his dedication and love for the State of Wyoming and willingness to serve his community. Hank was first elected to the Wyoming Senate in 1989 and served with distinction for over three decades. During his tenure in the Wyoming Senate, Senator Coe served as vice president of the senate from 1997 to 1998; senate majority floor leader from 1998 to 1999; and then as president of the senate from 2001 to 2002.

Senator Coe was chairman of the Travel, Recreation, and Wildlife Committee from 1992 to 1998, where he worked to grow the tourism industry into one of Wyoming’s largest industries. He also served on the Education Committee from 2003 to 2019, working to ensure that Wyoming’s children had the tools they need to succeed. These are just a few of the many roles to which Senator Coe brought his passion and expertise, and represent a cornerstone of Wyoming public policy. Prior to joining the Wyoming Senate, Senator Coe served 8 years as a Park County commissioner, and in honor of his service, the commissioners have declared April 29 “Hank Coe Day” in Park County, WY.

Senator Coe’s service to our great State goes beyond his work as an elected official. He was a respected member of his community. He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, a trustee for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, a member of the Wyoming Business Alliance, an advisor for the Regional Airport board, and much more.

I had the honor of serving with Senator Coe during my time in the Wyoming Legislature. Our desks were right across the aisle from one another on the Senate floor, and we enjoyed playing subtle pranks on each other. I will also cherish many evenings at the home of his extraordinary mother, Peg Coe, retiring to the den of her sprawling home for drinks and unforgettable conversation. The Coes are a one of a kind but also Wyoming family of the highest order.

Senator Coe passed away today, but I have no doubt he will be an example for generations to come of a dedicated public servant, a model of humility, and a leader for the values Wyoming holds dear.

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 superhero 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 unyielding service to our Navy, 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 honors graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and was commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program. He went on to earn a master of science in 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 Executive Education program for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

His sea tours include USS Whales (SSN 638), USS Florida (SSBN 728) (Blue), USS Key West (SSN 725), 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 commodore, he served on the staffs of both the Atlantic and Pacific Submarine Force commanders, on the staff of the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, on the Navy staff in the Assessments Division (N81) and the Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division (N13), in the Secretary of the Navy’s Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. House of Representatives, as the head of the Submarine and Nuclear Power Distribution Division (PER5 42) at the Navy Personnel Command, and as commander of the Joint Staff in both the Strategy and Policy (J5) and the Regional Operations (J33) 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, Atlantic; and 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 Policy Division (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 academics, research, and engagement has never been more important to our Nation and our 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 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.

First settled in the 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 crossing railroad tracks, 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 Sam Houston, the sixth Governor of Tennessee, Sam Houston. Since then, the people who call Houston County home have turned their little
piece of rural Tennessee into a beautiful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Congratulations are in order to the members of the Houston County Historical Society and, most importantly, to the citizens of Houston County. I ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing them another 150 years of progress and prosperity.●

REMEMBERING HELEN EUGENIA HAGAN

- Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Ms. Helen Eugenia Hagan, a remarkable pianist and pioneer for BIPOC women in music.

Her passion for performing began at a young age, and Ms. Hagan became the organist for the Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church when she was around 11 years old. Ms. Hagan’s talents earned her a spot at the Yale School of Music. In 1912, she was the first African-American woman to graduate from Yale University.

At the request of General John J. Pershing, Ms. Hagan traveled to France during World War I as part of a group led by preacher Henry H. Proctor. Ms. Hagan was the only Black performing artist sent to France during the war. Continuing to break barriers, she was also the first Black pianist to perform a recital at a New York concert venue, Ms. Hagan’s compositions and concert work received outstanding praise. The then-Dean of the Yale School of Music credited Ms. Hagan with “rare promise,” and critics commended her creativity and originality.

Struggling to find work during the Great Depression, she took graduate-level courses at Columbia University’s Teachers College while still giving performances. In 1933, Ms. Hagan took a teaching position at Bishop College in Texas and gave private music lessons in New York. She remained committed to musical composition, performance, and education until her passing in 1964.

On February 6, 2021, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra will honor Ms. Hagan with a History Award. Alongside Ms. Hagan’s compositions and concert work, the orchestra is performing her Piano Concerto in C minor,” with which she performed in New York. This concerto has been dedicated to sharing the life story of this incredible woman, who performed her “Piano Concerto in C minor” with which she performed in New York. This concerto has been dedicated to sharing the life story of this incredible woman, who performed her “Piano Concerto in C minor” with which she performed in New York.

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.

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 Roy Blunt, 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 repair the State Department, to reinvigorate the relationship between the Department and Congress—something

MESSAGES 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 as Sponsors of Terrorism (SSL–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 as Sponsors of Terrorism (SSL–2021–0016); 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 designation of Ansarallah (OS–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 amendment 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.

* Nomination was reported with recommendations that the Senate confirm 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
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 institution.

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 let 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 interests. We 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 as he is trying 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 heroes of our Capitol Police and other law enforcement, that happened, 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, protect our interests, and stop something, an unintended consequence, from happening.

Mr. Blinken has the qualifications. The challenges facing our country call for him, he is confirmed, and I hope the Senate does not lose him 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 on one thing 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 “BLEECKs.” 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 him my 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 worked together 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 to have had the opportunity to work with him.

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 most significant 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 move 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—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 overstatement when I say 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 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 regulated 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 rule help Americans’ electricity 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 who we were, and we 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:

(July 6, 2018)

‘BRAVE NEW WORLD’ AS TEAM INHOFE 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 joined 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 have also helped advance Scott Pruitt through the confirmation process before becoming his chief of staff at the agency last year.

But now an ex-Inhofe staffer is taking the reins as Pruitt leaves under a cloud of controversies.

Andrew Wheeler, who steps in as EPA’s chief under Wheeler, was a staff director and chief counsel to Inhofe on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for much of the George W. Bush administration. Jackson—a native Okla-

homan—was an Inhofe aide who worked as EPW staff director and Inhofe’s chief of staff. Brittany Bolen became the acting head of EPA’s policy shop after Samantha Dravis went up for President Obama’s counsel to Inhofe on the EPW Committee. Daisy Ladner, 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 air office. Republicans and energy industry lobbyists say Inhofe’s alumni network brings deep policy knowledge to EPA and is well positioned to reverse the agency that has been misversed in controversies under Prui-

"With these Inhofe staff, you get all of the Pruitt policy and none of the Pruitt bage," said an energy lobbyist and former congressional staffer. It makes sense that ex-Inhofe aides would populate EPA under a Republican administration, the lobbyist said, given Inhofe’s long tenure as the top Republican on the Senate committee charged with overseeing the EPA agency. "He hired a lot of smart people to work for him who were good and have gone on to do various other things," the lobbyist said.

"Those staffers have a history of working closely with Democrats on Capitol Hill, that person added: “I think that the Democrat staff and most of the Inhofe and the Inhofe staffers treated them fairly when they were up there.”

They also share an appreciation for process, said Matt Dempsey, Inhofe’s former communications director.

He expects his former colleagues to take a “back to basics” approach at EPA. “It’s not necessarily a policy-based agenda, but it’s a policy-based agenda,” he said.

That contrasts with how many people viewed Pruitt, who was widely thought to be thinking about 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 Inhofe crowd at EPA, some on the left are furious that discredited theories of the global 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 country be damned,” said 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 disastrous.”

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, at the top of the list was my chief 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 the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill 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 me negotiate with former California Senator Barbara Boxer.

This is kind of interesting. I think the Presiding Officer would find this to be interesting. Barbara Boxer and I—

for many, many years, every time the Republicans were in the majority, I was the chairman of that committee, and she was the ranking member. Every time the Democrats were in control, she was the chairman, and I was the ranking member. So we worked together, and we did. We won’t divulge where the meeting is, but there is a meeting that Republicans have historically had at 12:15 p.m. on a Tuesday with all the members of the committees, the chairmen. We would talk about what we have done, and when it was my turn, I would say: Now from the committee that actually gets things done. That was Barbara Boxer and I. No two people could be further apart philosophically than Barbara 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. I 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 policies.

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 policies. Well, at the EPA, 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 Ladner. 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 and deregulation initiatives that gave us the economy that was unprecedented during the time before the pandemic set in. It would be devastating to our country, which is already trying to recover from the pandemic. Now is not
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.
INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY 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 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 D.C. 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 for the 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 to 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.

Mr. KEVIN MCCARTHY, House Minority Leader, adressed the issue of saving such resources by eliminating the amount of paperwork sent to Congress when he proposed a cut in the number of reports that federal agencies are required to submit to Congress. Our bill is a perfect candidate because it eliminates a paperwork process that repeats itself without interruption.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice over the last 24 years. Of the more than 5,000 legislative acts transmitted to Congress since the Home Rule Act was passed in 1973, only three resolutions disapproving D.C. bills have been enacted (in 1979, 1981 and 1991) and two of those mistakenly involved federal interests—one in the Height Act and the other in the location of chanceries. Placing a congressional hold on more than 5,000 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses.

District residents and businesses are also placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in this unnecessary, labor-intensive and costly process to no effect. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on D.C. bills and the need for the D.C. Council to comply with a process initially created for the convenience of Congress, but that is now almost never used. This bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for Congress, the District and D.C. residents and businesses without reducing congressional oversight, and would carry out the policy stressed by Congress of eliminating needless paperwork and make-work redundancy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PLACE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Preparing Localities for an Autonomous Vehicles Act, which would accelerate the introduction of autonomous vehicles to market, and research and development into new technologies. Our bill also addresses the issue of saving such resources by eliminating the amount of paperwork sent to Congress when he proposed a cut in the number of reports that federal agencies are required to submit to Congress. Our bill is a perfect candidate because it eliminates a paperwork process that repeats itself without interruption.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice over the last 24 years. Of the more than 5,000 legislative acts transmitted to Congress since the Home Rule Act was passed in 1973, only three resolutions disapproving D.C. bills have been enacted (in 1979, 1981 and 1991) and two of those mistakenly involved federal interests—one in the Height Act and the other in the location of chanceries. Placing a congressional hold on more than 5,000 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses.

District residents and businesses are also placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in this unnecessary, labor-intensive and costly process to no effect. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on D.C. bills and the need for the D.C. Council to comply with a process initially created for the convenience of Congress, but that is now almost never used. This bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for Congress, the District and D.C. residents and businesses without reducing congressional oversight, and would carry out the policy stressed by Congress of eliminating needless paperwork and make-work redundancy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES PROTECTION ACT

HON. ED CASE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Representative Kahele, in introducing our bill to protect one of the most unique and fragile environments on Earth, our Hawaii, from devastating invasive species.

Invasive species pose an especially grave threat to Hawaii's unique ecosystems, natural resources and agricultural communities, in part due to Hawaii's unique geography. Hawaii is the most isolated island chain and one of the most ecologically diverse places in the world. We are 2,282 miles from the Continental United States, 2,952 miles from Japan and 4,772 miles from Washington, D.C., with no other islands in close proximity. We have with-in our constrained borders ten of the thirteen world climate zones, with ecosystems ranging from desert to tropical, where plants and animals that found their way to Hawaii evolved like nowhere else. A 2014 survey identified 9,975 endemic species in Hawaii. These species include the Hawaiian scarlet honeycreeper, the ʻiʻiwi; the flowering ever-green; and the state mammal of Hawaii, the ʻilolohikoaua (Hawaiian monk seal).

However, tragically, in large part due to invasive species, Hawaii has become the endangered species and extinction capital of the world.
world. Hawaii currently has 502 species listed as endangered, more than any other state and almost half of the total endangered species nationwide. 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 disappeared, since 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 Last 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 ‘ohi‘a lehua, is also illustrative of our growing crisis. Used for poi boards and outrigger canoes, the ‘ohi‘a lehua has been an integral part of Hawaiian culture and the islands’ watersheds. As the first tree to grow in new Hawaii lava flows, ‘ohi‘a grows throughout the watershed creating new soil, stabilizing steep mountain ridges and comprises approximately 80 percent of Hawaii’s native forests. Rapid ‘ohi‘a death, or ROD, caused by an invasive fungal pathogen, kills ‘ohi‘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 neighboring 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 and 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 diseases 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 22 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 being incontrovertible and growing impacts of external species on Hawaii’s natural resources and economy, existing federal law leaves Hawaii largely defenseless against increasingly destructive invasives. Imports by air and sea, the only means of in-bound 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 helpful 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 Protec tion 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 movement to the State of Hawaii. The inspections will search 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 Quaranial species have collection 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 beans 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 grower. Had this bill been implemented, it may have helped prevent coffee losses from the 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 continued and escalating invasive species pose to one of the most invaluable and unique eco-systems on earth, in addition to our unique economy and way of life, then the stark reality is that it will take again, it is not revolutionary when compared to other countries that have not only recognized this threat but actually done something about it. And it is certainly not revolutionary when compared to longstanding domestic restrictions on exotic species to the State of Hawaii, leading to the basic point that if these invasive species prevention requirements are good enough for the rest of the country and much of the world then they’re good enough for Hawaii.

I wish to thank Madame Speaker for your understanding and careful consideration of Hawaii’s challenge and opportunity, and ask for our bill’s expeditious passage. Mahalo (thank you).
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 and mentors to ensure that children have the best opportunities to lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

The passion for helping children succeed would drive my policy initiative as First Lady. I launched Be Best to ensure that we as Americans recognize the importance of everything we can do 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 children, 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. In 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 worked 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, an exceptional family, 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.

—议长的记录 ——延伸的评论

在内华达的州长生日庆典上，我将提到一个值得我们全州共同庆祝的日子。州长玛丽·金迪先生，今年是他的105岁生日，我谨代表内华达州政府和人民向他致以最崇高的敬意。

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOUSTON COUNTY 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 and fiftieth anniversary of Houston County being established and incorporated into the state of Tennessee.

Officially established on January 21st in the year 1871, Houston County takes its name from the legendary Tennessee pioneer, who, along with many others, served as the first member of Congress from the 7th district of Tennessee. Like its namesake, Houston County embodies the spirit of American grit and perseverance. From the stoked lime kilns of days past to the thriving timber industry of today, Houston County continues to foster a strong and proud community.

Over its long history, Houston 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 graciously 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 Tuesday, November 2, 2021, we lost her to 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 of 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 spiritual 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 diagnosis, worked with organizations like METAvivor and the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and even lobbied Congress. However, though her music and her advocacy took her...
all over the country and all over the world, Molly, I am proud to say, was devoted to Kan-
sas City, and more specifically to the Kansas
City music community. She supported organi-
zations like GUILDit, which seeks to connect
the world of music to the world of business to
help artists. After all, when Molly was diagnosed,
she had no health insurance—a tragically com-
mon phenomenon among inde-
pendent artists. And recently, she chose to do-
nate the proceeds from her albums to the Mid-
west Music Foundation, ensuring that her giv-
ing spirit will continue to touch the artists in her
community for years to come.
I have always been struck by Molly’s ability
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 The-
ater. 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 did not stop, she
was online from her living room. On stage with
a microphone in hand and a piano to sing be-
side—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 ours
even 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 an abil-
ity 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 ad-
ministering 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 clubs,
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 find-
ing beauty where there is pain. It is about find-
ing 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 estab-
lishing a rhythm, so that can be defied. Madam
Speaker, as I reckon with this loss, I take
comfort in the belief that Molly has found 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 hon-
orng 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 woke up this morning with Molly’s music
in my head. “When you fly out of this world,”
she would often sing at the end of her con-
certs, “And spend the next eternity or two
with you.”

HONORING JOSEPH A. MYERS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise
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 Pomo 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 Doc-
tor 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 Di-
rector of the American Indian Lawyer Training
Program where he mentored advocates on
tribal law, and notably joined with the
Bureau of Indian Affairs that successfully
reversed the termination of 17 Rancheria com-
munities in California. Mr. Myers later founded
the National Indian Justice Center to help tribes
strengthen governance capacity and im-
prove the quality of life in the 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 Univer-
sity named the Joseph A. Myers Center for
Research on Native American Issues as a trib-
ute to Mr. Myers contributions to the commu-
nity including the Native American students
on campus.
Along with his hard work ethic and commit-
ment to making a positive difference for oth-
ers, 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 Na-
tive American community and the entire North
Coast, and in extending condolences to his
family and many friends.

HONORING KELLY WALTERS
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. She was born on October 26, 2020 at
the age of 84. Mr. Walters was a first
respondor 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 Kenneth Walters. He graduated from his ca-
reer 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 District 7 Vice President twice
and ultimately as President and was also hon-
ored in its Hall of Fame.
Colleagues and community members re-
member 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 ex-
penses. 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 Ani-
mal Control Officer. Apart from these respon-
bilities 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
Hutchenson; 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.

HONORING KELLY WALTERS
OF VIRGINIA
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 For-
ward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would re-
instatate and improve the bicycle commuter tax
benefit.
The bicycle is the most efficient form of
urban transportation ever devised. Cycling re-
duces carbon emissions, provides enormous
physical and mental health benefits, and is
one of the most cost-effective modes of trans-
portation available. Communities across the
country have realized these benefits and sub-
stantially invested in building better bike net-
works and improving facilities for biking to
work. These investments are one of the rea-
sons that rates of biking to work have in-
creased 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 was a tax break that employers could
offer to provide a reimbursement of up to $20/
month for expenses relating to bicycle com-
muting 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 media attention.

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 have worldwide scale, well beyond what all previous encyclopedias could cover, combined. To date, Wikipedians 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 of South Carolina. 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 all law enforcement 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 Director 1LT Alex Morris.

Moving forward, it's time to keep working to put what 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 former Vice 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.
IN RECOGNITION OF THE MASONIC
PALESTINE LODGE NO. 357 F. & A. M. OF DETROIT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

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 in-centive 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 islands who rely on this help to put food on their 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 air tour helicopters in the Mariana Islands part of the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

My bill ensures individuals and families in our islands who rely on this help to put food on their 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.
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 develop the National Freight 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 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 am thankful for Wiley’s leadership, dedication to public service throughout his 26-year career in the Federal government and his work on issues of vital importance to the economic vibrance of our great nation.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT 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 Bikeshare Transit Act of 2021. This legislation passed the House last session to include this legislation in a long-term surface transportation reauthorization package.

This legislation makes bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities. Federal funding can be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare-related equipment and constructing bikeshare facilities. Bikeshare systems will also be listed as eligible projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program. The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new and existing bikeshare projects applying for federal funding while underscoring that bikeshare programs drive economic development and are an important part of bringing choice and adding value to America’s transportation systems.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in a long-term surface transportation reauthorization package.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

**OF ILLINOIS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, January 21, 2021**

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, on July 20, 2020 I missed recorded vote No. 142 due to travel delays. Had I been present I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 6395).

### CELEBRATING THE INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE’S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

**OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, January 21, 2021**

Mr. WILSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Independence Chamber of Commerce on one hundred years of support and advocacy for local businesses across Independence, Missouri. For an entire century, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has nurtured the entrepreneurial spirit that serves as the economic backbone of my district.

President Harry Truman, born and raised in Independence, emphatically believed that “America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.” For one hundred years, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has given local business leaders the tools to be courageous and imaginative, along with the determination necessary to succeed. The Chamber represents over five hundred businesses in Independence, each doing their part to make a difference in the lives of their friends and neighbors. Every year, the Chamber’s incredible staff and Board of Directors organize nearly two hundred events, from roundtable discussions with burgeoning business leaders, to seminars with professionals on how to grow new enterprises. These business-centered events bolster the economic

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**THANK YOU SECRETARY ROBERT WILKIE**

**HON. JOE WILSON**

**OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, January 21, 2021**

Mr. WILSON. 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 trust, 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.”

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**VISITING THE LATE LOUIS AYALA**

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, January 21, 2021**

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Louis Ayala, a beloved member of our north Fort Worth community, who died of COVID–19 and pneumonia last week. Mr. Ayala was known for his dedication to the barber shop industry and was honored by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation last year as the oldest active barber in Texas.

At the age of 14, while still in middle school, Louis learned how to cut hair. Years later, he opened Ayala’s Barber Shop on North Main Street in the same neighborhood where he grew up and where our community went decades to get a good haircut. Since 1945, Louis Ayala has kept our community happy and looking sharp. Louis Ayala’s hard work and spirit is an outstanding example of American ingenuity and perseverance. His commitment to his small business and community must be commended and remembered.
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 Santa Cali Con 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 continues to grow and prosper with purpose and purpose.

However, the Chamber’s work extends far beyond Independence city limits. Its annual lobbying day in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. helps promote the policies necessary for robust business growth and economic development only in the greater area 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 issues 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 development 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 voices, but also its presence, that have 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 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 diverse 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 MEJLER
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. MEJLER, 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.

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.
TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ADOLPH FLOYD GONELLA

HON. ANNA G. ESCHO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. ESCHO. 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 “Mr. Education” 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 Vallejo City Unified School District where he and Superintendent Rick Diamelo 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 his grandsons, 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 under served 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 Advance ment 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 (STSFA) 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 proportionally 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 STSFA program.

The Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021 would reauthorize the STSFA 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

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mark 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 public service.

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’s “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 refuted 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’s 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 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, and it will certainly be missed—but never forgotten. I wish Mr. Trump all the best in his future endeavors.

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 restore the excellence of the great heritage we owe to 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 always want them to have luck, a very important word.

“I’d like to begin by thanking just a few of the tremendous people who made our improbable journey 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 put 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 my sworn forces, and state and local law enforcement all across our country. Most of all, I want to thank the American people. To serve as 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 peace-loving citizens who all want our country to flourish and be very, very successful and good. We are a truly magnificent nation.

“America was affirmed 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 around our shared values and rise above the partisan rancor and forge our common destiny. Four years ago, I came to Washington as the only true outsider ever to win the presidency, and I had not spent my career as a politician, but as a builder looking at open skylines and imagining infinite possibilities. I ran for president because I knew there were towering new summits for America just waiting to be reached. I knew the potential for our nation was boundless as long as we put America first. So I left behind, saying and stepped into a very difficult arena, but an arena, nevertheless, with all sorts of potential if properly done.

“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 the 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 we could ever come close. We passed the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history, a law that made killing regulations than any administration had ever done before.

“We fixed 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...
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 the highest tariffs on China. China took a deal and made a new deal with China. But before the ink was even dry, we and the whole world got hit with the China virus.

The stock market set one record after another, with 148 stock market highs during the short period of time, and boosted the retirement savings and stock prices for all Americans. The stock market topped 300% at some points, and we were able to give millions of workers and pensioners their savings back. The stock market had a boom that was unprecedented.

We restored American strength at home and American leadership abroad. The world respected America again and our sovereignty was never questioned. We stood up to the Chinese regime and restored America’s place. This includes historic agreements with Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, along with more than 450 million people in 146 nations around the world.

We restored American sovereignty by standing up for America at the United Nations and withdrawing from the one-sided United Nations Postal Administration. And NATO countries are now paying hundreds of billions of dollars more than when I arrived just a few years ago. It was very un-American.

We restored the American dream and made America again great. We passed VA Choice, VA Accountability, and achieved record-low unemployment for the American workers.

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, but I think of it as a 4th of July miracle. Another administration would have taken three, four, five, maybe even up to 10 years to develop a vaccine, and the American people deserve better. 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. In 47 trillion-dollar stimulus, we saw inflation rise, unemployment drop, and GDP surge. And when the virus hit the world, America’s workers and American families, I did not seek the easiest course. By far, it was actually the most difficult. I did not seek the path that would get the least criticism. I took on both battles, the hardest fights, the most difficult choices because that’s what you elected me to do. Your needs were my first and last unyielding focus. This, I hope, will be clear.

Together, we put the American people back in charge of our country. We restored self-government. We restored the idea that in America no one is forgotten because every everyday citizens of America. Our allegiance is not to the special interests corporations or political parties, but to the people, our citizens, and to our nation itself. As president, my top priority, my constant concern has always been the best interests of American workers and American families. I did not seek the easiest course. By far, it was actually the most difficult. I did not seek the path that would get the least criticism. I took on both battles, the hardest fights, the most difficult choices because that’s what you elected me to do. Your needs were my first and last unyielding focus. This, I hope, will be clear.

Our economy is now the envy of the world. We created millions of jobs, and our economy is poised to surpass the old record. And with thousands of new businesses opening and millions of jobs created, we are on track to surpass the old record. And with thousands of new businesses opening and millions of jobs created, we are on track to surpass the old record.
``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: Page S91

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) Page S87

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. 

Additional Cosponsors:

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.

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.

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.

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